



Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Time and Date

10.30 am on Thursday, 17th March, 2022

Place

Diamond Rooms 1 and 2 - Council House

Please note that in line with current Government and City Council guidelines in relation to Covid, there will be reduced public access to the meeting to manage numbers attending safely. If you wish to attend in person, please contact the Governance Services Officers indicated at the end of the agenda.

Public Business

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**
2. **Declarations of Interests**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 10)
 - a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, 2021
 - b) Matters Arising
4. **Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2020-2021**
(Pages 11 - 58)

Briefing Note and Report of the Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership
5. **Family Health and Lifestyle Services Annual Report 2020-2021** (Pages 59 - 90)

Joint Briefing Note and Annual Report
6. **Children's Services Continuous Improvement Progress** (Pages 91 - 96)

Briefing Note of the Director of Children's Services
7. **Co-opted Members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)** (Pages 97 - 98)

Report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator
8. **Work Programme** (Pages 99 - 102)

Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator

9. **Any Other Business**

Any other items of business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

Julie Newman, Director of Law and Governance, Council House, Coventry

Wednesday, 9 March 2022

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Michelle Rose Tel: 024 7697 2645 Email: michelle.rose@coventry.gov.uk

Membership:

Councillors F Abbott, P Akhtar, J Blundell, S Hanson, J Innes (Chair), S Keough, R Simpson, R Thay, C Thomas and A Tucker

By invitation Councillors B Gittins, K Sandhu and P Seaman

Public Access

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Any member of the public who would like to attend the meeting in person is required to contact the officer below in advance of the meeting regarding arrangements for public attendance. A guide to attending public meeting can be found here:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/publicAttendanceMeetings>

Michelle Rose

Tel: 024 7697 2645 Email: michelle.rose@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)
held at 10.30 am on Thursday, 9 December 2021

Present:

Members: Councillor J Innes (Chair)
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor S Keough
Councillor C Thomas

Co-Opted Members: Mrs S Hanson
Mrs K Jones

Other Members: Councillor K Sandhu (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)
Councillor P Seaman (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Employees (by Directorate):

Children's Services S Bates, C Donovan, J Gregg,
Education and Skills R Sugars, J Essex
Law and Governance G Holmes, M Rose,

Apologies: Councillors F Abbott, R Simpson and Councillor Gittins
(Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Public Business

18. Declarations of Interests

There were no disclosable interests.

The Board noted that Councillor Abbott had submitted her apologies in light of her interest in matters to be considered at meeting.

19. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

20. Voice of the Child

The Scrutiny Board considered a briefing note of the Director of Children's Services which detailed different methods used to identify the voice of the child, especially through the use of technology when engaging with specific groups of children and young people.

Coventry Children's Services use various methods to support children and young people in sharing their wishes, feelings and aspirations. Methods included, during direct work, group activities, surveys, focus groups and technology. The focus at this meeting was on technology and details of other methods were appended to the briefing note.

The Board received a presentation on the 'Mind of My Own' app designed and co-produced with children and young people, to support them in sharing their views, concerns and thoughts about their lives. The app had been successfully used in Coventry since 2019. Some of the benefits of using Mind of My Own had been:

- a) Children and young people on the autistic spectrum had shared more via the app than previously with their worker.
- b) During Covid-19 lockdowns, it was an effective tool for young people to keep in touch with their worker.
- c) Young people had used the app to tell their worker something that was difficult to say in person.
- d) Staff had benefitted from being able to upload to case files young people's views in their own words.
- e) Children, young people and staff had all benefitted from sharing good news rather than focusing on issues all the time.

Coventry had been partnering with Social Finance for the past three years as a pilot authority in the development of 'Leaving Well'. Leaving Well was a pioneering, new digital approach to leaving care services, which was centred around the Leaving Well Digital Tool. The new style pathway plan had been successful in ensuring all pathway plans were completed and reviewed via Leaving Well. This had several advantages detailed in the report.

Various methods were employed to ensure children and young people living with special educational needs and disabilities voices could be heard including Widgets and Makaton, (the use of symbols, signs, and speech to replace written words). Screen sharing Apps for sharing a white board screen in the classroom with a young person on a laptop or tablet. Screen reading technology including touch typing programmes. Students use phones and tablets to take images and zoom in. There were also specific apps, such as, 'Seeing AI' which was a talking camera for the blind to identify images or read writing. Hardware used included, electronic Braille. The use of MS Teams had also had a positive impact on the number of young people attending annual reviews and expressing their opinions. It was thought that online was a less intimidating environment than being in a room with a range of professionals.

Another method using technology was 'Kooth' a safe, free and confidential way for young people to access emotional wellbeing and early intervention mental health support, it was actively promoted by Coventry Children's Services. The service was available to all young people across Coventry aged 11-25 years from April 2021 and was jointly funded by the City Council and Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Other methods of participation used within Coventry's Children's Services included:

- The Participation Team was a focal point for engagement across Children's Services. The database monitored participation across looked after children aged 5-18 years and identified where there were any gaps.
- 'Young Inspectors' was a youth led programme which provided children and young people with a platform for their views and opinions of the services they access. Recommendations made, would support services in the development of their offer and help to ensure services were meeting the needs of the children and young people they work with.
- Young people led groups which included 'Little Voices' and 'Voices of Care' the local Children in Care Council. A separate Care leavers group contributed to the Corporate Parenting Board and Coventry Youth Council provided a more generic voice.
- Moderation of case note files with a focus on the voice of the child and ways to improve
- Service User feedback forms and ways to improve
- Coventry was part of wave 2, of 'Coram Voice New Belongings Project'. Care leavers were surveyed to identify where they were flourishing and where things could be improved. An evidence base was produced and informed service improvements via an action plan. Key areas for development included housing and accommodation, emotional well-being and finance.
- In 2018, the Social Work Academy supported by young people from Voices of Care developed a good practice guide for life story work which had been widely disseminated and used by staff.
- Children and young people inform practice via direct liaison with coordinators and formal service user feedback. During Covid-19 restrictions, the Lifelong Links and Family Group Conferencing service offered three options which were influenced and guided by young people
- The 8 Family Hubs across Coventry were at the forefront of using the Mind of My Own app, they had provided youth sessions during holiday periods and delivered child friendly interventions. Young people's feedback informed how sessions could be further developed, they measure customer experience, twice a year, via the Let's Talk Coventry platform and feedback forms were offered to all families following periods of intervention. Currently all the hubs were taking part in the Young Inspector's programme. This activity would inform hubs about how they were viewed from a young person's perspective.

All activity was monitored quarterly as part of the Participation Strategy. Monitoring enabled Coventry Children's Services to articulate the status of participation activity across our services, celebrate successes and identify areas for development. Participation was recognised as 'everyone's' business with services developing mechanisms for children, young people, parents, and carers to have a voice about the services they access and inform practice. The expectation was that participation work would be further enhanced through the Voice and Influence strand of the 'Coventry Family Valued' project.

The Board questioned officers, received responses, and discussed the following:

- the benefits of using technology
- accessibility of technology and digital poverty
- diagnosis of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and support available following identification

- concerns about the returning of feedback forms and use of cut and paste
- reasons young people would prefer to do their schoolwork at home e.g., anxiety
- assurances around safeguarding and use of technology
- communication and follow up with young people regarding issues they have raised via technology
- the amount of young people using the technology of those who were eligible

The Board were reassured that the messages received from young people via technology were to be an aid to conversations and training was delivered to staff using the app. The briefing note used 'signs of safety' framework headings and the concerns noted under the heading "What we are worried about" were not significant concerns but were used to assist developing the service.

The Board were very supportive of the work to listen to children and young people and particularly the option to use technology to communicate their views.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board note the content of the briefing and thanked staff for supporting the importance of including the voice of the child in planning and evaluating work.

21. **Free School Meals Holiday Activities Fund Update**

Further to Minute 10/21 the Scrutiny Board considered a briefing note of the Director of Education & Skills which updated Members on the previous report regarding free school meals (FSM) and the Holiday and Activities Fund (HAF).

FSM numbers in the city have increased from 11,683 (21.6% of pupil population) at the start of the pandemic to 12,683 (23.4% of pupil population) in January 2021 and 13,272 (24.3% of pupil population) currently. This compared with 20.8% of pupils nationally. By the end of April 2020 100% of eligible children were recorded as accessing free school meals (FSMs), and with the help of schools during the first lockdown, food vouchers/parcels for benefits eligible FSM children were delivered (including holiday periods).

The briefing note detailed the changes to the funding during the pandemic including various guidance, schemes and amounts over the last 2 years. Recently Coventry had been indicatively allocated £3.2M by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) via a new grant, the Household Support Fund (HSF) which operated from the 6th October to 31st March 2022 (6 months). This was the same level of funding as was provided to cover the 10 month period of the Covid winter grant Scheme (WGS) and Covid local grant schemes (LGS) in place between December 20 and September 2021. It was likely that the increase in funding was due to consideration of the recent reduction to Universal Credit and the significant price inflation currently affecting the energy market. No further funding had been announced for beyond 31st March 2022. By this point eligible pupils would have received food parcels / vouchers in holiday periods for almost 2 years.

Alongside FSM, the Holiday Activities and Food Pilot Programme was extended nationwide for children 5-16 during Easter, Summer and Christmas of 2021. Combining enriching activities with a hot or cold meal, nutrition awareness and

signposting. The Programme would reach approximately a quarter of eligible children and as the other grant schemes remained in place eligible pupils would have had access to this as well as parcels / vouchers. The briefing note detailed the numbers attending and examples of support they received. In the spending review further funding was announced for the holiday activities and food programme over the next 3 years at £200M per annum. The national level was at roughly the same amount as the current year.

The Coventry Food Network had been working to develop a city-wide Sustainable Food Strategy which focused on the links between the long-term sustainable prevention of food poverty, the promotion of public health and the reduction of growing health inequalities. They were applying for charitable status.

Following a successful 2-years funding bid to Feeding Britain, Coventry Independent Advice Service were supporting each social supermarket, to offer residents a range of advice and support. The aim was to help residents address and resolve underlying issues that made them vulnerable to hunger or food insecurity; to increase household income or reduce expenditure, thereby contributing to greater financial resilience; reduce their reliance on community food provision; receive support to improve their wellbeing and independence.

Coventry Food Network were supporting the procurement of food and delivery of the HAF 'Festive Fun 2021' Programme. A number of social supermarkets were providers for the HAF programme and delivered activity programmes and meals to children and young people eligible for FSM. An additional number were supporting the co-ordination and distribution of the 'Cook at Home Packs'. Coventry Food Network also supported issuing food parcels to residents who had made requests for food via the Community Support Team.

Feeding Coventry secured £10,000 to bulk order and distribute food to the social supermarkets during October 2021. This ensured that the social supermarkets were able to stock-up on essential food items for their members.

A Christmas campaign had been launched by the Community Resilience Team to raise money and secure food donations for the social supermarkets and vulnerable families in the city to address the shortage of lorry drivers and increased demand for help from the social supermarkets during the holiday period and into January 2022.

The Board questioned officers, received responses, and discussed the following:

- conditions of the grant schemes
- concern about the extent of Food Poverty nationally and in the city
- the end of the current funding schemes in March 2022.
- support for young people over 16 years

Officers agreed to provide further information about the conditions of the £3.2m grant schemes funding of which £2.5m, was used for FSM.

The Board were encouraged to circulate the publicity about the support available to their constituents.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:

- 1) **Note the content of the briefing note and concern about the extent of Food Poverty nationally and in the city**
- 2) **Write to the Cabinet Member (Education and Skills) and the Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources) requesting they consider future support for the Holiday Activities Fund taking measures necessary following the end of the current funding schemes in March 2022.**
- 3) **Write to the LGA, Coventry's MPs and the Department for Education to raise their concerns about the extent of Food Poverty and the end of the current funding schemes in March 2022.**

22. **School Readiness - Impact of Covid-19**

The Board considered a briefing note of the Director of Education & Skills regarding the impact that Covid has had on school readiness and what services were doing to support and improve school readiness.

The report noted that in England a child's progress was reviewed between the age of 2 and 3 by an early year's practitioner, or health visitor and again by their class teacher at the end of the school year in which they turn 5 (reception). The teacher used their judgement to assess a child's attainment against the national checklist of 'Good Level of Development (GLD)' Framework for the early years foundation stage. This was the key national indicator of whether a child was 'ready for school', this was a measure of attainment, not progress.

It wasn't possible to claim a full understanding of the impact that Covid has had on school readiness. The government temporarily disapplied and modified certain elements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework so no profile data was available for July 2020 or 2021. Children born immediately before or during the pandemic had not yet started school, so any impact on their expected level of development was not yet known.

It was recognised that high quality early years education combined with a supportive home learning environment were known precursors to later educational success. Children would have had varying pre-school experience. For those attending early years settings, access may have been disrupted and it was probable that the level of uptake of early years provision had been detrimentally impacted by Covid concerns and parental demand because more parents had been at home.

Prior to the Covid 19 pandemic, school readiness was an area of focus in Coventry. The data taken from 2019 indicated that overall, 69% of Coventry children were 'school ready' compared to a national average of 71%. However, the breakdown for children identified as disadvantaged fell to 55% compared to a national average of 56.6%.

The report detailed studies investigating the impact of Covid-19 on family life and early childhood development and work with teachers in schools where children started reception in September 2020. Feedback from Coventry Schools and Early Years Providers in Coventry supported these findings including, concerns that the

children entering the EYFS exhibited poorer social skills and other indicators of GLD were lower such as:

- They were often more comfortable in learning on their own or with a very small number of other children.
- Unable to share
- Some children were overwhelmed by a busy classroom, preferring quieter, more solitary activities
- More children seeking adult attention and some evidence of building unhealthy attachments with adults
- Language delay and confidence in communication
- Children enjoying sharing books with adults
- Gross and fine motor skills were less well developed, and balance and co-ordination were below levels expected
- Overall tiredness within the day and across the week – whilst this had always been a factor it was now more pronounced
- Unable to sustain concentration
- Significantly higher number of children presenting with special educational needs (SEND)
- (Nursery) – more children not yet toileting independently and reliant on ‘pull-ups’ than ordinarily expected

On a more positive note, some schools had also reported that children had settled well into daily routines and were starting to make gains in their learning through good progress.

In Autumn 2020 Coventry’s uptake of 2-year-old funded places was 61% compared to 76% in Autumn 2019. Uptake of 3- and 4-year-old funded places was 90% in Autumn 2020 compared to 92% in Autumn 2019. Throughout the pandemic there had been a sufficient number of high-quality childcare places for keyworker and vulnerable children, including using reserves to support holiday periods and provide better funding certainty for providers.

The quality profile of Coventry’s early years providers across the city remained high. The percentage of childcare providers on non-domestic premises achieving good or better Ofsted outcomes was at 99% even though the overall number of providers in this category decreased. Childcare on domestic premises remained at 97% of providers achieving good or better. Also, 91% of schools with a Nursery class achieved good or better outcomes at inspection, 7% required improvement and 2% were found to be inadequate.

The ongoing number of children identified as requiring support for presenting SEN was continuing to increase month by month across both early years and schools’ settings, saturating the capacity of support services. Early years health and education services, continued to be vigilant in identifying children who required high levels of support, to successfully transition to school in September 2021. Consequently, a higher number of children than ever before began school with an Education Health and Care Plan in place.

Over the last year Coventry had implemented the Early Years Team restructure, which was to increase the emphasis and level of focus on quality in the sector. An Integrated Early Years Strategy had been launched, which included collaborative work related to closing attainment gaps, increasing uptake of early years provision,

providing resources to support families, and offering wider opportunities for training and development.

Schools had received recovery funding to support pupils through a recovery premium, national tutoring programme and school-led tutoring grant. Also Coventry had been invited to join a pre-reception 'Building on Success programme' to provide high quality training to early years staff in order to support children who were at risk of falling behind at a critical stage of their development and have nominated early years providers who meet the criteria.

The Board questioned officers, received responses, and discussed the following:

- celebrating and sharing good practice regarding expectations for children being ready for school
- encouraging play at school
- schools being an environment conducive to learning i.e., ready for pupils such as ventilated adequately
- virtual visits providing support during lockdown periods

The Board were encouraged to promote the 2-,3- and 4-year-old provision offered in the City to their constituents.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:

- 1) **Note the content of the briefing note**
- 2) **Write to the Cabinet Member (Education and Skills) to encourage the sharing of good practice on readiness for school between schools, early years settings and private providers**
- 3) **Write to Department for Education to request that there is adequate funding to ensure schools buildings were ventilated effectively without leaving pupils and staff cold which will affect their learning**

23. **Work Programme**

The Scrutiny Board considered their Work Programme and noted the addition of the following items for consideration in January 2022

- Safeguarding Board Annual Report
- Family Health and Lifestyles Service

RESOLVED that the work programme be updated

24. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 12.43 pm)



Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Service Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 17th March 2022

Subject: Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual report

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 The purpose of the briefing note is to provide an update in relation to the Safeguarding Children's Partnership annual report.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Education and Children's Service Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
- 1) Note the contents of the report.
 - 2) Make any additional recommendations to the Council's representatives on the Safeguarding Children's Partnership

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 Working Together 2018 states that, 'In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.'

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■ Annual report 2020-2021





Board partners





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Introduction from the Chair

"It is my pleasure to introduce the 2020/21 Annual Report for the Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership.

This has been a unique year with the challenges of the pandemic adding to what was already a very demanding safeguarding agenda. Partner agencies have seen an increase in need for their services and in many cases there has also been heightened levels of complexity.

The Safeguarding Partners; Police, Health and the Local Authority have worked well, liaising with other agencies to respond quickly and effectively to an evolving situation. I saw at first hand timely information sharing, co-ordinated responses and decisive leadership.

The Report provides updates on the work of the CSCP, our progress against priorities and where more still needs to be done. It also highlights where learning has been identified and implemented, whether that emerged from our audit programme or from reviews.

2021/22 will continue to present challenges as the effects of the pandemic are still very much with us but I am confident that the partnership in Coventry will work effectively together to help safeguard and protect the children and young people of the city."

Derek Benson

Independent Chair of Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership

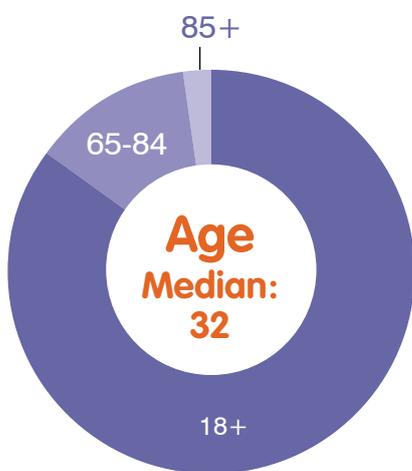
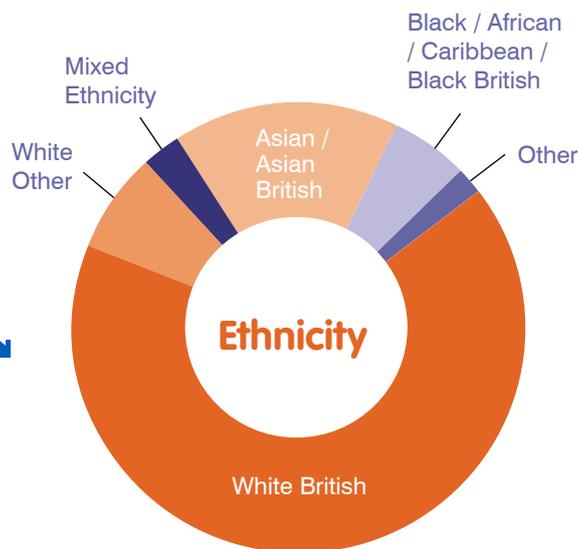
Local context

371,521

total population of Coventry



Dependent on way it is measured, Coventry ranks between 64th and 81st most deprived local authority area of 317 in England

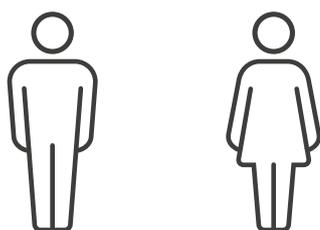
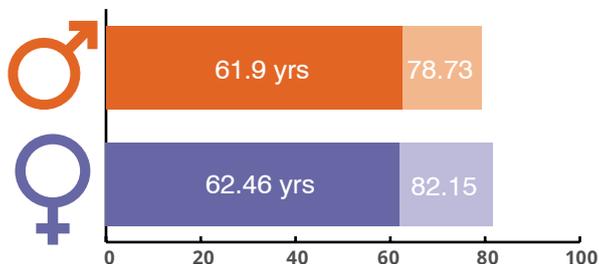


Children in Low Income Families



Households in fuel poverty

Healthy Life Expectancy / Life expectancy



Total male population
188,744

Total female population
182,777

5% Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known (% of all 16-17s) (5.3% west mids, 5.5% nationally)

% of obese children aged 10-11



22.7%
Teenage (u18) conceptions (rate per 1,000 girls aged 15-17)

88
per 10,000 children looked after by the Local Authority (West mids average 82, National average 67)





About Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership

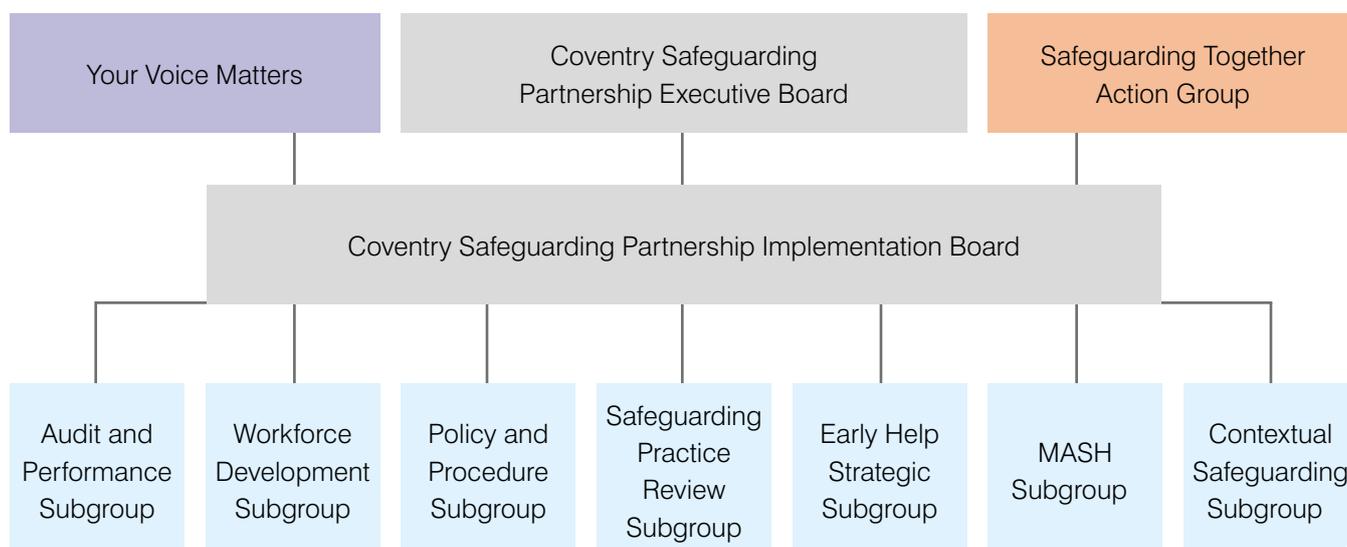
This document constitutes the Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CSCP) Annual Report 2020/21 and provides a summary of the effectiveness of services in the city to safeguard children and young people. The report is in line with the statutory requirement in Working Together 2018 for Safeguarding Partners to publish a report at least once in a 12 month period. The information contained within this document has been provided by partners.

Our vision is to work in partnership to ensure that children and young people are protected from harm and neglect and that their welfare is promoted.

Our values are :

- To put children, young people and families at the heart of everything we do.
- To ensure that partners work together achieving better outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- To recognise and share examples of good practice so that these can be replicated in other areas.
- To be innovative and to try new approaches to ensure continuous improvement.
- To be open and honest about barriers that may be preventing improvement so that we can collectively agree how these may be overcome.
- To ensure that poor practice is challenged appropriately to ensure that it leads to improvements in the system.
- To ensure that children, young people and their families receive the right service, at the right time in the right way

The governance structure of CSCP





For 2020-2022 the priorities for Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership are:

Neglect

Extra familial harm including a contextual safeguarding approach

Making the system work

Progress against priorities: **Neglect**

What's working well?

The multi-agency **Neglect Strategy** has been reviewed and agreed by the Safeguarding Partners.

The Graded Care Profile 2 Training Programme has been established and is now in place. Two training events are scheduled per month and are delivered virtually using MS Teams. Trainer's meetings are being held monthly to review and evaluate training sessions and to identify learning to further strengthen delivery.

A **Neglect conference** took place in February 2021 including national and local speakers. The recordings of the sessions have been added to the website together with **key questions and discussion points** provided by the speakers to allow them to be used as training materials.

In February 2021, the Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children delivered a training session to 450 Coventry Primary Care staff regarding neglect and perplexing presentations to aid their identification of neglectful care.

As part of the Family Hub Core Offer, help is delivered to families where neglect is a feature and will form part of the Early Help Plan.

At City College there is a centralised and dedicated point of contact within the College for students/staff safeguarding and wellbeing, is identified early recognition and response to neglect. Students are supported and allocated a member of the college team to support and minimise additional risks. This has been key for Children's Services and other external support agencies to have in terms of safeguarding.

During Covid-19 the Family Health and Lifestyles Service has delivered the majority of its service via virtual platforms and the service has seen a significant increase in contact via its Chat Health offer, a texting service with two numbers, one for parents and one for young people. The school nurses have supported a number of parents with behavioural and conduct advice, and children and young people with virtual health and wellbeing sessions e.g. mindfulness, relaxation, to help support their mental health wellbeing.

The South Warwickshire Foundation Trust Safeguarding Team support Trust staff to understand and recognise the signs of neglect. This can help to give a voice to children and recognise that any child can suffer neglect, although some may be more vulnerable than others. Through safeguarding supervision, support and advice and safeguarding training the Trust supports all staff to understand the cumulative signs of neglect and more importantly be proactive to prevent ongoing neglect.

Family Hubs have continued to deliver parenting intervention to include children and families where neglect is a feature. The parenting offer has been adapted to include the virtual delivery of all parenting programmes.

Further Children's Services staff have been trained to deliver parenting interventions based on needs, such areas have been Teen groups and Stepping Stones programme (particular focus on children with additional needs).

Neglect associated with substance misuse and co-sleeping: The CCG received end of year funds from NHS England. A dedicated **Safer Sleeping Conference** has been delivered including messages from National and Local reviews. A suite of resources to support front line practitioners and information for parents has also been developed.

Guide for Practitioners
Quick Reference Card

A **one minute guide in relation to adolescent neglect** has been created.

Food vouchers/electricity vouchers were accessible via a link for students who were unable to get to college. Awareness was raised of support available locally eg food banks, homeless organisations etc to help/ direct learners to them. Laptops were also given out for students who required them.

The Head of Safeguarding at Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group has worked in partnership with health providers to strengthen the sharing of information related to this priority. NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT) are to share data related to Non-Accidental Injuries where neglect is a feature and South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT) have plans to share data related to enhanced contacts by Health Visitors and Family Nurse Partnership activity. This will give additional information to the partnership to understand neglect from a health perspective.

The Family Health and Lifestyles service (commissioned by Public Health) have further developed the health questionnaire they deliver to assess Children's health needs. The questionnaire is completed by parents at school entry and by children in Year 6 and 9. Through the collection of this data, the school nursing team can identify unmet health needs and develop health promotion programmes that the children and young people feel they require. This can contribute to identifying unmet needs for children and young people at an earlier stage.

Health Visitors and School Nurses continue to attend 'Family Matters' meetings across the city which is a multiagency meeting to identify and support families who have an unmet need and to avoid issues escalating this works to develop ways of supporting families to reduce the likelihood of children.

What are we worried about?

The implementation of the GCP2 training programme has needed to be amended during the pandemic which has impacted on the numbers of participants trained.

Primary Care Monthly Multi-Disciplinary Meeting: There is a lack of consistency in the process of identifying and recording at these meetings, as well as attendance by health professionals.

During Covid-19 the domestic abuse services have undertaken the majority of their service delivery via virtual methods including video and phone calls. Best practice guidance during this time has been that children and young people who live at home with the perpetrator do not have sessions in order to minimise risk to their safety. This has resulted in a small number of children and young people in Coventry not receiving a service from the provider. Advice and support has been provided to Social Workers to support them and the families affected during this period. With restrictions being relaxed the service is now commencing support in suitable locations (e.g. family hubs) to recommence face to face delivery for some children and young people where virtual delivery is not an option.

Neglect associated with substance misuse and co-sleeping: This has been a feature of a number of Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

It is recognised that cases are becoming more complex, which obviously has implications for families but also has impacts for staff.

It is likely that demand for services will increase as Covid-19 restrictions relax further and domestic abuse services have already seen a significant increase in demand over the last few weeks. The services have not been able to discharge people at the same rate due to delays within the wider system (e.g. courts, housing) and therefore are reaching capacity.

What needs to happen?

To increase the number of GCP2 trained trainers across the service to further enhance the core training delivery group.

The CCG is leading on a series of engagement sessions with GPs and Named Safeguarding Professionals to strengthen the organisational processes of MDT meetings. This will include ensuring attendance by appropriate health professionals; aligning actions; strengthening referral pathways and mapping the outcomes for children and families.

Police are reviewing the use of a new outcome code (OC22) that provides officers with the opportunity to offer diversionary, educational or intervention activity to ensure that we get the best outcomes for children. Coventry Local Authority have identified that family engagement is a continuing challenging element in regards to families involved in neglect cases engaging with assessment processes. With the new outcome code, the police have the ability to place a condition of engagement onto suspects when they are linked to offences. This provides the opportunity for police to enforce engagement for neglect cases. This measure will help promote early intervention and will encourage families to engage with social care in order for the investigation not to be pursued any further by the police if the agreed engagement is completed.

Further development is underway regarding the function within the Early help module on the indicators of neglect at the initial stage when a request is received.

Demand across all Public Health services will be monitored over the coming months as Covid-19 restrictions relax as we expect to see an increase in demand. The Family Health and Lifestyle Service will need to continue a blended offer of virtual and face to face to ensure ongoing support reaches families and children and young people as COVID19 restrictions lift.

Work is underway to develop a Multi-agency Neglect toolkit to support practitioners in identifying, assessing and responding to neglect.

The South Warwickshire Foundation Trust Safeguarding Team is in regular individual contact with all services via telephone and virtual meetings to offer advice and support. This has helped to further raise the profile of Safeguarding across the Trust and “frontline” practitioners have felt reassured by the confirmation that Safeguarding really is an ever-constant presence and resource for them to utilise.

Progress against priorities: **Extra familial harm including a contextual safeguarding approach**

What's working well?

Learning and Development Webinars have been delivered and a Multi Agency Conference has been held to support an understanding of contextual safeguarding.

An exploitation week took place in March which comprised of key messages being disseminated via social media and a number of webinars aimed at upskilling practitioners in a particular area.

The Horizon Team is ensuring that contextual safeguarding is considered more robustly within all Meetings (Strategy Meetings, MACE and Missing Triage).

Coventry is one of the three areas across the West Midlands area that is implementing an Exploitation Hub. This will help to support the current structure of the Horizon team by providing a greater police structure in regards to intelligence and investigation. Police will be adding further staffing to this function to provide a more aligned approach across the force area.

A mapping exercise took place with young people to identify spaces where children and young people feel safe and unsafe that includes personal safety planning. Schools involved were identified in partnership with Education colleagues in crime hotspot areas.

The Horizon team provides case consultations across all social work teams and Early Help to provide specialist advice and guidance around working with exploitation.

Child Exploitation Project Manager: The Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Authority Public Health have jointly commissioned a Child Exploitation Project manager to strengthen the pathways in health. The project manager has developed infographics in relation to cuckooing and plugging that have been shared across the system.

Violence Reduction Unit Pilot – focussed in Hillfields working in partnership with youth organisations to provide diversionary activities.

There is excellent collaborative working between the Horizon Team and key agencies aligned to the Horizon Team (LOCATE, Police Child Sexual Exploitation Team, The Gangs Team, Youth Offending Team, Education particularly the LINK Provision and CAMHS).

The South Warwickshire Foundation Trust Safeguarding Team works with all members of staff to increase the understanding of contextual safeguarding and ensure there is a consideration of risk outside of the home for children and Young People.

The Clinical Commissioning Group organised a Coventry Gangs awareness raising training session for Primary Care delivered by West Midlands Police, with over 300 participants dialling in. In February 2021, the Child Exploitation Project Manager delivered a training session to 450 Coventry Primary Care staff regarding extra familial harm to aid their identification of this issue.

Mandatory contextual safeguarding staff training developed by South Warwickshire Foundation Trust to ensure that staff have knowledge and skills to recognise how young people are influenced by a whole range of environments and people outside of their own family. To includes awareness of online environments, through safety training around grooming and tracking. A good knowledge and understanding of the local community – and challenges faced by the young people/learners living within the community.

The Child Exploitation Coordinator Role is a conduit for information and intelligence sharing and cohesion across/between partners. The role provides advice and guidance across the partnership.

The School Nursing (SN) Service links in with the Vulnerable and Missing Persons Panel to provide information of young people known to them. This is an active movement from understanding and attributing risk solely to parents, to understanding that parents may have no influence on events outside the home. The SN Service has “Drop In” sessions in schools, focussed groups and offer a relaxation sessions that have been well received with over one thousand children accessing this service. These services encourages and supports children to feel safe to discuss aspects of their life outside the family environment. The voice of the child to shape service provision is paramount.

Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Advisers ensure the effective delivery of Prevent and Channel Panel across Coventry including engagement with community partners and representation from all partner agencies.

What are we worried about?

The ongoing impact of Covid-19 on children, families and agencies across the city.

Funding streams are often time limited and this does not lead to sustainable projects.

Bringing children into care if they cannot be protected in the community does not necessarily improve outcomes for children. Children going out of the city for a placement could promote opportunities for young people to be involved or co-ordinate county lines over more geographical/gang areas.

Success or outcomes are being monitored based only on a young person’s behavioural change but should include their feeling of safety in their wider community.

Contextual Safeguarding is not embedded consistently within assessments and intervention plans for young people. Practitioners need to triangulate information known about the child/young person providing more in-depth consideration of the young person's history and wider family functioning, including contributing factors for example mental health, learning difficulties that are undiagnosed, as well as literacy skills of the parent/carer.

The use of Osman warnings by the police impacts on placement choice.

Plugging - There is lack of awareness of the management of young people that are exploited to carry drugs inside their bodies, and there is a gap in regional or national policy or protocol to address this issue.

What needs to happen?

Increased consultation is needed prior to the issue of Osman warnings to mitigate against creating further vulnerabilities for children. Development of an agreed information sharing pathway/protocol.

Multi-agency mapping meeting for nominals of County Lines operating out of Coventry to fully understand the scale of this activity and to identify joint opportunities for disruption and safeguarding young people being exploited.

As part of the extra familial safeguarding approach there is a need to consider the development of resources and support for parents, carers and families of children and young people who are subjected to exploitation. There is a wide evidence base which highlights the fact that in many cases parents are protective factors and should be viewed as partners in processes undertaken to keep children and young people safe.

Child exploitation champion role to be fully embedded across MASH and Children's Services teams to increase awareness and response from all teams in respect of Contextual Safeguarding.

Locate officers to be situated within Children's Services to strengthen the response to Missing. This has been agreed for two days a week but delayed due to COVID-19.

Training sessions with Taxi Drivers, Hotel Staff, Housing Providers and the Community to improve lines of communication and strengthening safeguarding across the community and awareness of contextual safeguarding.

Greater joint working between Children Services and Adult Services, this will enable Children Services, including the Horizon team to respond to the needs of the young person to ensure the welfare and safeguarding needs of parents are assessed to especially in cases of mental health or domestic abuse.

Development of a parent network as has been successful in other LA areas at providing support for parents and facilitating the development of trust and confidence in professionals as partners not people working against them and their children.

The partnership has used civil orders and partnership working to disrupt exploitation and perpetrator activity in some cases but this needs to be developed as a consistent approach to extra familial harm.

Progress against priorities: **Making the system work**

What's working well?

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the CSCP team have produced a bi-monthly position statement to support a common understanding of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities in the safeguarding system. These have been shared with all CSCP members.

Right help, right time threshold training continues to be rolled out across the partnership.

The Safeguarding Together Action Group (STAG) made up of frontline practitioners from across the statutory, voluntary and community sector continues to meet virtually on a quarterly basis meaning that national, regional and local learning is shared across the partnership.

A specific role has been established within West Midlands Police to embed the learning that arises from Safeguarding Practice Review to all of the geographical areas across the force. This roll provides accountability for the lesson derived from Safeguarding Practice Review's to be understood and for the learning to be shared or for relevant changes to be put in place to address the learning points identified.

Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership has joined the West Midlands Safeguarding Children's **procedure manual** meaning that there are consistent procedures for practitioners operating across the region.

Training has been delivered to a range of partners on the use of EHM when completing Early Help Assessments (EHAs) and establishing Early Help Plans. In the last year this has resulted in a 138% increase in the completion of Early Help Assessment by partner agencies.

Health representation at strategy meetings: The Clinical Commissioning Group Head of Safeguarding worked in partnership with Local Authority Public Health and Coventry Children's services to identify a flow chart to identify the most appropriate health professional to participate in strategy meetings outside of the MASH. This has ensured that the partnership arrangements for strategy meetings are compliant with Working Together 2018 and that the health contributions inform the decision-making process.

Dip samples of reports have identified that voice of the child is being utilised within West Midlands Police to a good level. West Midlands police Public Protection Unit officers have completed briefings to front-line officers in relation to completing voice of the child – this is working well and as a result of the inputs there has been a rise in the use of voice of the child.

Children's Named Safeguarding Professionals (CNSPs) and Named GPs for Safeguarding Children: The CCG continues to commission these professionals in Primary Care. This has ensured that vulnerable children are identified and highlighted on their systems, and that there is dedicated resources to support safeguarding duties. In addition, these staff produce case conference reports that share information and analyse risk for vulnerable children, as well as supporting with safeguarding activities including Rapid Reviews, Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership audits. These professionals also act as a conduit for sharing information to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and other professionals across the system to inform safeguarding decision making. The Named Safeguarding Professionals also co-ordinate monthly Multi- Disciplinary Team meetings in the GP Practice.

The Children's Commissioning and Partnership Service has developed a quality assurance framework which covers all services but has a particular focus on placements. Feedback, research and intelligence are used to RAG rate all external providers to monitor and track the quality of the service provided and determine where to visit.

The Clinical Commissioning Group Head of Safeguarding and Children's Services Strategic Leads: Meetings have been held monthly to identify and support with any risks raised particularly focusing on looked after children's emotional and mental health needs, as well as strengthening health representation at strategy meetings.

The Early help directory, TRELLO, continues to be developed signposting professionals and families to sources of support across the city.

What are we worried about?

MASH function being reviewed as the new police systems are not allowing for MASH assessment.

Your Voice Matters, the young people's consultative group, has been put on hold across 2020-2021 as schools were hesitant to allow visitors into their schools or to conduct the sessions online. Three sessions are now planned for Summer Autumn 2021.

Referrals across the system are increasing and this is putting pressure on all agencies.

A Rapid Review Action Plan is monitored and tracked by the partnership to ensure that actions arising from rapid reviews are progressed in an appropriate and timely manner. Webinars have also been delivered across the partnership as part of Practice Week informing practitioners in relation to the learning from rapid reviews.

What needs to happen?

To continue to extend the range of partners trained and using EHM in order to complete Early Help Assessments and Plans in order to increase the number of partner agencies completing whole family assessments. An Early Help Module work flow has been designed to represent the new Early Help Assessment practice and process, this will be ready for deployment from April 2020.

Changes in Child Protection Medical requirements: The Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children is reviewing arrangements in light of the revised guidance and will share the findings with health commissioners.

An end to end process review is being completed by West Midlands Police to understand the processes currently in place within the force. Part of the issue is in relation to a new computer system implemented within the Police and is currently being embedded. A schedule of meeting have been arranged to understand and resolve the identified issues and then meetings will be held with Children's Services to review the MASH function e.g agenda for meetings, thresholds etc.

Domestic Abuse Triage is also affected by the new police computer system. This process will also be reviewed to consider the right help right time principle to provide a greater understanding of the information that the police are passing to partner agencies by having an agreed risk matrix set in line with the Barnardos screening tool.

One minute guides are being created to share the learning from rapid reviews.



Child Exploitation Indicator Tool

A new Child Exploitation Indicator Tool was launched in March 2021 as part of the local activity for Child Exploitation Awareness Week. The new tool replaces several existing screening tools and brings screening for all forms of Child Exploitation into one form including sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, modern slavery, human trafficking and the Prevent duty.

The new Indicator Tool was created by a multi-agency group of Coventry professionals to ensure it was suitable for all practitioners across the city and weeks of testing was carried out with multi-agency front line professionals to make sure the tool was easy to use, faster to complete than the previous screening tools and beneficial to practitioners and the young people and families they work with. The Indicator Tool was created for use with young people up to the age of 25 but can be expanded to work with adults at risk if required in the future.

The Indicator Tool encourages professionals to use their own judgement, it is a move away from forms where the number of ticks in the boxes provides the risk level. The Indicator Tool asks the professional to complete a set of sections including Health, Online Safety, Grooming, Child and Family and Behaviour then after the information has been gathered, to use the Signs of Safety framework to pinpoint the risk of harm and what the professional thinks needs to happen going forwards.

The feedback received from Coventry professionals is very positive and the original working group meets periodically to consider the feedback received. This ensures that the tool remains relevant in the changing landscape of exploitation and that it meets the needs of professionals and young people and their families in Coventry.

The Indicator Tool together with its accompanying Guidance Document can be found on the Coventry City Council website on the **Child Exploitation webpages**.



Neglect conference

Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership hosted a Neglect conference in February 2021. The Keynote speaker was Dez Holmes, Director of Research in Practice and local partners from Clinical Commissioning Group, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, West Midlands Police, Early Help and NSPCC also gave presentations. The Conference was held virtually via Microsoft Teams due to lockdown restrictions but was well attended, with a total 188 attendees from a range of organisations.

The presentations were recorded and are now held on the Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership website to support further learning. Each presenter also provided questions and discussion points to facilitate further conversation when these presentations are being watched in future training sessions. It is hoped this will encourage continued engagement and contextualisation of the content to individual organisations.

Feedback from attendees was wholly positive, with comments noting how informative the session was and positive feedback was echoed in other meetings and groups which provided a useful opportunity to signpost the recorded resources.

This conference and the continued use of the recorded presentations forms part of the continued drive to raise awareness of neglect throughout the city.

Neglect Conference February 2021

Questions and Discussion points from presenters



Exploitation Awareness Week for Annual Report

From 15 to 19 March 2021, a wider Exploitation Awareness Week was devised to coincide with Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day 2021 on 18 March. The week consisted of sharing resources through a social media strategy, signposting services and sharing posts from a wider regional campaign taking place over the same week.

A programme of webinars following a theme set out on each day was also held and promoted through email channels, the CSCP newsletter and a Microsoft Teams background.

The week was an opportunity to launch the new Child Exploitation Screening Tool, raise awareness on different forms of child exploitation and promote services such as Youth Offending and Catch 22.

Webinars were consistently well attended, averaging at 30 attendees per session from a range of organisations. Feedback across all sessions was extremely positive, with attendees asking for slides to disseminate or asking if professionals giving the session would provide the session to their own teams. With 962 visitors to the CSCP website over the week, the Child Exploitation page was the second most visited page after the homepage, followed by resources for professionals.



Local authority designated officer

In accordance with the statutory duties set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Coventry City Council has a 'LADO,' who has responsibility for the management of allegations against professionals working in a voluntary or paid capacity with children.

Training

The LADO works collaboratively with partner agencies within and outside Coventry, to ensure that the management of allegations of professional abuse is robust and effectively safeguards children; one way the LADO has increased awareness of allegations management duties for partners and supported them to accomplish their obligations over the COVID impacted 2020/2021 reporting period, is through virtual training delivery.

The LADO successfully provided virtual LADO training to approximately 160 members of staff across Children's Services, statutory and third sector partners over the year. In addition, LADO training has formed an integral part of Designated Safeguarding Lead training for 0 -18 Education settings in the city, also delivered using virtual platforms given the working practice context as a result of the pandemic.

Feedback from partners who attended the training is positive in terms of their increased knowledge of LADO and their understanding of what is required of them as representatives of their agency when allegations are made by children, or where they have concerns about the behaviour of a colleague or other professional employed in a paid or voluntary capacity with children.

Whilst remote learning brings some issues relating to participation given some restrictions compared to the usual training format e.g. joint case study 'break out' activities, it has enabled professionals to attend training without having to manage the logistics of their business as usual, face to face work, e.g. teaching. Some participants have shared that they prefer the virtual delivery method and consideration will be given to flexible training opportunities moving forward that considers the feedback provided.

Quality assurance and management oversight of the work of the LADO Service supports the identification of themes/patterns relating to individuals, services and wider organisations. This information is used to identify any potential causes for concern and informs learning and development for partners through training delivery, advice and guidance.

Case example

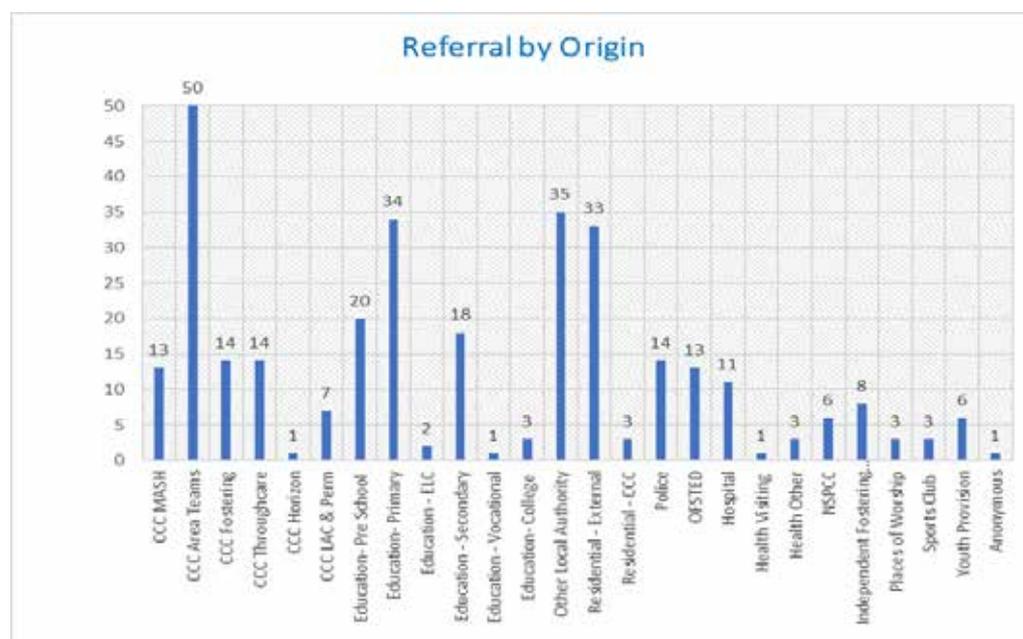
Repeat referrals from a residential children's home were identified as not meeting the threshold for LADO involvement; these related to situations where one child was making repeat allegations against different members of staff, none of which when investigated by the manager, could have occurred. Referrals were made to LADO based on there being an allegation rather than the manager considering the substance of the allegations which were disproved by CCTV footage, staff rotas, logs and by other children living in the home.

In the example above, the LADO met with all staff and the Manager of the home and provided a bespoke training session for them. Through this training, all who attended reported that they were better able to understand the thresholds for LADO involvement, had greater confidence regarding their approaches to the management of malicious or unfounded allegations and better understood the LADO advice and guidance function. The result was reduced referrals from this setting and support via the child's Social Worker to understand the reasons the child was making repeat allegations.

Contacts and Referrals

The LADO provided advice and guidance in response to 1085 contacts relating to professionals working in Positions of Trust in 2020/21; a marginal increase of 3.5% on the 1048 contacts in 2019/20.

The number of referrals has decreased by 21% from 400 in 2019/20 to 317 this year, in part, this is attributable to the training received by partners, which has given them confidence to respond to low level concerns without advice and guidance from the LADO; and in part as a result of more partners seeking advice and guidance before completing a referral.



In 2020/21, Coventry Children Services have continued to make the most referrals to the LADO service with 102 (32.1%) of referrals coming from Children's Services, this is a marginal decrease on 2019/20 where 107 (27.9%) of referrals originated from Children's Services. The majority, 50 (49%) of Children's Services' referrals originate from Area Teams, this is as expected because these teams come into contact with the largest number of children (Early Help, Child in Need, Child Protection) when compared to other areas of service delivery.

Of the Education referrals, those from pre-school settings account for 20 (26%) primary education account for 34 (44%), secondary account for 18 (23%) and Extended Learning Centres, colleges and vocational setting account for 6 (7%). This is a decrease in numbers 31 (7.79%) to 20 for preschool settings, reduction of 25% from primary settings, and 23.9% from Secondary settings compared to 19/20. In the context of COVID19 lockdowns where schools were closed, this is not a cause for concern but will be monitored across 2021/22.

As in 2019/20, none of the health referrals in 2020/21 relate to conduct that has occurred in the Nurse/Midwife/Doctor's place of work, but in their personal lives. There is a common theme of identifying stresses in the professional's life outside of work which the employer was previously unaware.

Case example

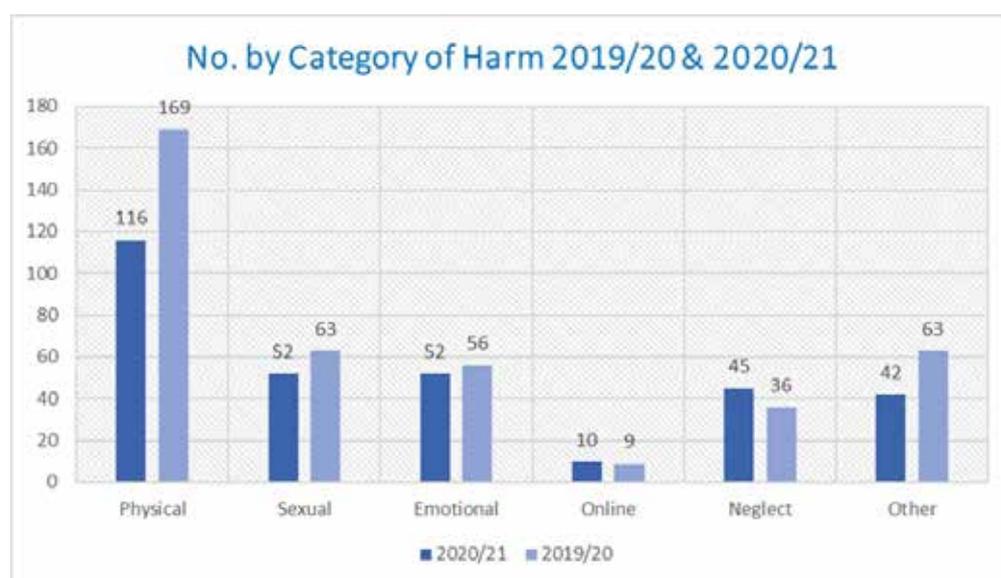
A complaint by the child of a person in a position of trust that they use inappropriate physical chastisement, the concern for LADO and the employer being how would they respond to a disclosure of a similar nature by a child in their professional sphere, and what is their understanding of the impact on their child and any child of being subjected to inappropriate physical chastisement. Employer had provided them with support and Children's Services, the police and the child's school were working collaboratively to support and safeguard the child and the professional/parent.

14 referrals were received from the police in 2020/21, this represents a 65% reduction in referrals compared to those made in 2019/2020. Of the 14, 5 referrals related to serving Police Officers, the remainder relate to reported crimes where the offender is a person in a position of trust. LADO cross partnership training is open to West Midlands Police and has been advertised by the CSCP. LADO is in the process of devising Police specific LADO training for those working in Public Protection to increase training take up.

Categories of Harm

Across 2020/21 as in the two previous years, the main category of harm is 'Physical'; Numerically this represents a decrease of 53 referrals categorised as Physical Harm however, when related to the percentage of referrals in each respective year, in 2020/21 this represents 36.6% of referrals which is a small percentage reduction on the 2019/20 where 42.7% of referrals related to Physical Harm. This reflects the regional and national picture informed by LADOs as fed back into the Regional and National LADO networks.

NB Where 'other' is recorded these are cases where threshold is not met for further LADO oversight and intervention meaning that in these there is often no identifiable harm.



LADO - Regionally and Nationally

Coventry LADO Service is a member of the National LADO Network as well as West Midlands Regional LADO Network. This ensures the opportunity to reflect on decision making, benchmark Coventry's throughput and thresholds against geographical and statistical neighbours and use the network to learn from peers in respect of potential areas of practice and service development.

For example, Coventry LADO Service has engaged in network discussions regarding allegations made against teachers/teaching related staff and those that meet the harms threshold as now contained in the updated statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2021; this includes the notion of transferable risk where behaviours of concern may have happened outside of the individual's place of work and this might make them unsuitable to work with children - Coventry LADO practice incorporates this threshold as part of the approach to safeguarding children in the city.

Coventry LADO Policies and Procedures are now aligned to the West Midlands Regional Child Protection Procedures. As a result of this, there is a consistent approach across the region which simplifies the overarching governance and approach to LADO for professional partners who work across more than one authority.

The LADO Service in Coventry will continue to engage in these forums and adapt processes where necessary to reflect current good practice and national guidance.

In Conclusion

The Annual Report of the Coventry City Council LADO Service shows the service to be accessible and that professionals and concerned members of the public receive consistent, dependable advice. LADO responses are carefully considered and are shown to be balanced and proportionate in ensuring that safeguarding of children is managed effectively and individuals who are the subject of referrals, are protected from further allegations during the Position of Trust process.

Professional feedback is positive about the advice and guidance they receive and about the impact an accessible LADO service has on supporting their decision making.

Signs of Safety

Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership continues to support Signs of Safety as the model in all agencies across the city.

The roll out of multi-agency training continues, albeit virtually, across the city and there are now a relatively low number of practitioners that require training. Audit work is evidencing that the methodology is being applied across the partnership giving practitioners across the city a common language and framework.

Right help, right time

The Right Help Right time guidance is aimed at assisting professionals to understand and assess risk appropriately so that children and families can receive the right help at the right time.

The aim is to provide early interventions for children, young people and families that require support in order to prevent them moving towards higher levels of need, and to reduce the levels of need once they have been identified. The guidance is contained within the **online procedures manual.**

Right help right time training sessions continues to be rolled out and now form part of Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership training brochure.

Quality assurance

Over the last year the rolling audit programme has included both statutory and thematic audits.

Babies at risk audit

The CSCP undertook an audit to review the current circumstances of children who have recently stepped down from Child Protection Plans, families who have had a new baby in the last 6 months and children currently subject to a Child Protection Plan to provide assurance around the decision making process for vulnerable babies. Partners of the Board were asked to review the audit cohort and identify whether they had worked with any of the children and families and then complete a case file audit using an agreed audit template which featured a Signs of Safety approach.

What's working well?	What are we worried about?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioners are trained and well-equipped to identify risks and vulnerabilities. • There was evidence of excellent multi-agency working between professionals. • Management oversight and case direction was clear, concise and decision making was timely. • The Early Help Partnership and Health Visiting Service discovered some good evidence of relationship-based practice and building trust with families • The quality of chronologies continues to improve in most agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing within and across all key partner agencies. • It was apparent throughout the audit that the 'Think Family' approach is an area for development. • The audit identified some missed opportunities to engage with families at the earliest opportunity. • There was some variable practice noted in relation to professional curiosity. • The Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on the way practitioners are able to view and assess children and their families, especially in their home environment • It was evident there is no risk-based, multi-agency tiered approach to safer sleep advice.

What needs to happen? (Recommendations)

On receipt of the Child Protection plan information from Children's Services, the relevant GP will use read codes on their internal systems to log this and share it with the Named GP for Safeguarding at the Practice. A dip sample will be carried out in 6 months to check for improvements in this area.

Agencies provided the CSCP with assurance that they are promoting the Think Family/Whole Family Model across their agencies.

CSCP produced a One Minute Guide to raise awareness and promote best practice across partner agencies around the need to identify family networks at the earliest point in their involvement and the benefits of early participation in the Family Group Conference Service

CSCP developed guidance on professional curiosity; the guidance included a best practice awareness and approach regarding the effective use of family history and chronology and how this is key to inform current assessment and decision making with children and families.

Section 175/157 Schools Safeguarding Audit

The CSCP undertakes an annual assessment of all schools in Coventry. This self-assessment reviews the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding children in relation to their duties under S157 and S175 Education Act 2002, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 (KCSIE) and Working Together 2018. The 2020 audit took place at a time of unusual pressure on schools, as the Covid-19 pandemic and its associated lockdown restrictions were in place for its entirety. This was taken into account during the audit period itself, and schools were encouraged to reflect the impact of lockdown in their audit responses where applicable to ensure this was considered where relevant to safeguarding practice. All schools completed the audit except for three. There were many positive features in the 2020 audit and numerous examples of excellent work were shared, evidencing that schools in Coventry are performing well within a broad safeguarding spectrum. The key recommendations from this audit are summarised below:

- The CSCP Board should obtain assurance from the Local Authority Education team that the 3 schools who failed to complete the audit have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place.
- The Safeguarding in Education Advisor should provide assurance to the CSCP, on behalf of the Local Authority, as to how all schools will be better supported and encouraged to complete this statutory audit in 2021.
- Schools should ensure that someone from their setting has attended the Prevent toolkit workshop (either via the flyer which will be emailed to them or by using the link in the monthly safeguarding newsletter)

- The Safeguarding in Education Advisor should set a clear expectation of frequency for the governor (or equivalent) responsible for safeguarding meeting with the DSL for supervision and checking the SCR. Written guidance confirming this standard should be sent to all schools.
- The Early Help team to write a One Minute Guide focussed on how schools can contribute to, and their role in the Early Help process. This will be disseminated to all schools in Coventry.
- The Safeguarding in Education Advisor should remind all schools about their responsibility to promote safer working practice and update governor (or equivalent) DBS checks as appropriate.

Section 11 Audit

An annual assessment is undertaken by the Board of all CSCP member agencies and organisations in relation to their duties under Section 11 Children Act 2004. This self-assessment reviews the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding children at a strategic level and assesses each organisation against eight standards based on the requirements set down in the 'Statutory Guidance on Making Arrangements to Safeguard & Promote the Welfare of Children' under Section 11 Children Act 2004. The audit was completed by nominated members of the relevant agencies who have a duty to comply, using a self-assessment tool developed in a regional group with other Midlands Safeguarding Partnerships to ensure consistency, comparability and to reduce the administrative work of partners required to submit audits for a number of Boards (such as the West Midlands Fire Service).

This year's audit was positive, with the majority of partners reporting good adherence to requirements and able to give excellent evidential examples of good practice, or the changes they intend to make to improve the way they work. The recommendations were as follows:

- The Partnership Board and subgroup members will be provided with a copy of the new Signs of Safety One Minute Guide, which was written to support improvements in case recording after the Looked After Children audit in 2018. This should be cascaded to all staff within agencies and managers in agencies should use it to improve the content and quality of case recording.
- Agencies are to send their collated feedback from children and young people to the CSCP Development Officer twice yearly (on request). The Development Officer will produce, every 6 months, a summary of children and families' feedback to agencies which will be shared across the partnership to reduce silo working and ensure children's voices are heard and agencies are able to tailor the services they offer to meet children's needs. The CSCP annual report will include a section asking agencies for assurance that this feedback has been used to influence the services they offer to children.

Learning from Reviews

Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership have undertaken a Serious Case Review, that was commenced under Working Together 2015. The review is in relation to Matt who was 2 and half months old at the time of his death, in the care of his parents. An ambulance attended the home at the request of the parents but found Matt deceased. An investigation remains current and for this reason the review is yet to be published. There was evidence that both parents has used cannabis and /or alcohol on the night of Matt's death.

1	The Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership should review the neglect strategy to ensure that the identification of neglect is identified and appropriately respond to.	The Neglect strategy has been reviewed and was signed off by the Execs in February 2021 and shared with the CSCP Board in March 2021. The updated strategy can be found here: <u>Neglect Strategy</u>
a)	The continued implementation and embedding of the Graded Care Profile 2 to all relevant staff.	Children's Services have 24 licensed trainers and 2 sessions per month have been delivered across 2021. A Neglect toolkit is being developed and a guide to GCP2 will form part of that toolkit.
b)	Recognition of the harm caused to children by the cumulative effect of all types of neglect.	The cumulative impact of neglect is included in both the strategy and the impending toolkit. The neglect conference featured a session on the cumulative impact of neglect and the recording can be found here :- Neglect Conference
c)	Using this and previous reviews which have focused on neglect as learning for professionals.	The Neglect Conference shared learning from both this review and other national reviews. A webinar has been delivered to professionals across the partnership sharing the learning from this review.

2	The Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership should use this review and the findings of the National Children Safeguarding Practice Panel to review the approach to safe sleeping by:	
a)	Review commissioning to promote safe sleeping within a local strategy for improving child health outcomes.	Safe sleeping is covered as part of the health visiting offer. There is an insert in the red book about safe sleeping and there is a page within the red book that the Midwife and Health Visitor completes to see where the baby sleeps day and night. Both direct families to resources from The Lullaby Trust and NHS Choices. Safe sleeping is also covered in the spec for HV.
b)	Promoting the identification of pre-disposing risks of SUDI and delivering differentiated interventions according to risk, with particular focus to parents that are suspected or know to use substances and/or alcohol.	Co-sleeping risk assessment practice guidance has been developed across Coventry and Warwickshire and can be found here:- Practitioners Guidance A Safer Sleeping conference was hosted across Coventry and Warwickshire sharing messages from the National and local reviews as well as to promote safer sleeping materials for practitioners to us with families.
3	The Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership should consider what support, training and advice is in place for professionals dealing with families demonstrating disguised compliance or who are avoidant and/or resistant and determine whether further support is required which could include: -	A One Minute Guide to be developed signposting offering top tips to professionals to encourage families to engage. This has been disseminated across the partnership. Dez Holmes, Research in Practice presented at the CSCP Neglect Conference in relation to the importance practitioners being skilled in encouraging families to engage. Signs of safety continues to be rolled out across the partnership is a strengths based way of working with families. Safe Sleeping

a)	A tiered and robust multi agency approach, utilising the skills and powers available from each agency providing consistency and clear boundaries.	RHRT continues to be rolled out virtually. 117 further practitioners have been trained since 2021.
b)	Undertaking coordinated but unannounced visits.	Family matters meeting continue to support a co-ordinated way to engaging families.
c)	Triangulating historic and family information with other agencies, extended family and community.	The promotion of the Early help module continues and the CSCP is starting to see evidence that this is being utilised by partners.
4	The Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership should be assured that:-	
a)	Referrals to the MASH are appropriately triaged and where appropriate a strategy meeting takes place; this meeting should include where possible the agency making the referral.	All referrals into MASH are appropriately triaged and a strategy meeting takes place, attempts are always made to include the referrer but this is not always possible due to availability of professionals. A Strategy meeting log is kept and they are all WT 18 compliant.
b)	That assessments include all relevant agency information.	The CSCP Neglect Conference featured a session on making a good MASH referral. Guidance in relation to making a good MASH referral has also been produced and is on the CSCP website. Top Tips for a MASH Referral
c)	That pre-birth assessments are undertaken in relevant cases and the procedure is embedded.	A multi-agency webinar to be delivered in respect of pre-birth referrals and pre-birth assessments. This will be recorded and added to the CSCP website.
d)	That prior to closure of Child in Need plans, there is clear evidence that the desired outcomes have been.	A closure summary is to be completed on all cases. This evidences how the desired outcomes have been met but also provides a comprehensive update for the social worker should the case be 'stepped up' again.

5	Coventry Children Social Care should ensure that the pathway to allow families to access Early Help provision is clear and robust, in particular where cases are stepped down. This should include a notification to the social worker that the case has been accepted by Early Help, where consent is given, before the case is closed.	The step up step down procedures has now been developed and this has been shared across the partnership.
6	The Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership should ensure that the Coventry and Warwickshire Resolution and Escalation of Professionals Disagreement Procedure is understood by professionals and there are no barriers to it being used.	Right help, right time threshold training has been amended to reference the escalation procedure.
7	Coventry Safeguarding Partnership should review what provisions are available to support and understand the needs young people leaving care in anticipation of impending parenthood.	Dudley Lodge and Hurdle provide support to young people who are leaving care and about to become parents and this information has been shared with partners.

Training

The CSCP delivers a programme of specialist multi-agency training and development.

Course Title	Attendee total
Self Harm Workshop	72 (2 Sessions)
Emotional Abuse Workshop	39
Contextual Safeguarding Workshop	49
Domestic Abuse Webinar	36
Hidden Harm & SG Children Webinar	46
Nitrous Oxide Webinar	32
INTEL Webinar	86
Fabricated & Induced Illness	52

Fire Safety Webinar	26
Culturally based Practices & SG Children	45
Right Help – Right Time Workshop	83 (6 Sessions)
Making A Good MASH Referral Webinar	15
Safeguarding Awareness Webinar	18 (2 Sessions)
How Together We Can End Modern Slavery In The UK Webinar	26
Exploring Child Criminal Exploitation / County Lines Webinar	42
Unresolved Emotional Trauma Webinar	49
Psychology Of Coercion & Control Webinar	23
National Review Of SUDI Where Children Are Considered To be At Risk Of Significant Harm Webinar	15
Professional Guide To Understanding What Child Exploitation is & top 5 Intervention Strategies Webinar	28
Messages From A Serious Case Review Webinar	19
Level 1 - Intro To SG Children	45 (3 Sessions)
Level 3 – Effective Supervision	11
Learning From A SCR/Complex intrafamilial Sex Abuse Webinar	55
Level 3 – Understanding Sexual Abusers In Order To SG Children	15
FGM & Adults With Care & Support Needs Webinar	25
Harms Associated With Gaming & Gambling Webinar	34
Level 3 – SG Children In Whom Illness Is Fabricated Or Induced	29
Level 2 – Working Together To safeguard Children	27
Level 3 – Domestic violence & Abuse & SG Children	20
Contextual Safeguarding Webinar	89
Level 3 – Emotional Abuse & Neglect	25
Child Sexual Exploitation webinar	18
Level 3 – Parental Substance Misuse	15

1 Day Signs Of Safety	132 (13 Sessions)
Level 3 – 2 Day Signs Of Safety	173 (13 Sessions)
1/2 Day Signs Of Safety	62 (5 Sessions)
Signs Of Safety Overview	11
Management Of Allegations	138 (4 Sessions)
Mental Capacity Act Learning Event	84
Neglect Conference	191
Making SG Personnel Learning Event	160

Evaluating impact

Our multi-agency training programme is regularly evaluated to ensure that the impact on practice is understood. The evaluation includes an analysis of three-month post course feedback, specifically linked to impact on practice and evidence of how training has resulted in better outcomes for children.

Two courses were evaluated to review impact:-

Course	Level 1	Female Genital Mutilation
General comments	<p>'The training was a really helpful guide in what to look for with concerns on abuse and neglect and where to go for helpful advice.'</p> <p>'The case studies and discussions were also very useful to get us thinking and critically analysing situations.'</p>	<p>This is such a sensitive topic and still very taboo across many cultures and lifestyles. I felt the way the training was delivered was factual, respectful and relevant.'</p>
Evidence of impact	<p>'I have come back to work informing all staff about the signs to look out for and who to call to report.'</p> <p>'Since the training I have identified a concern and made a referral.'</p>	<p>'I am a new starter in Early Help so I will most definitely be implementing the learning into my work.'</p> <p>'Really useful so much so that I have discussed it with my team and shared the slides.'</p>



Safeguarding Together Action Group

The Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership have continued to hold the Safeguarding Together Action Group (STAG) in a virtual format during Covid-19 restrictions.

The STAG's purpose is to bring people together in a new way to safeguard children across the partnership. There are currently 155 members across 68 organisations, some of which have never worked directly with the Safeguarding Children's Partnership before.

The discussion topics in the STAG fall mainly into the below categories:

- To share information from Safeguarding Practice Reviews, audits and national learning so that information can reach front line professionals more effectively.
- To ensure that professionals are kept up to date with emerging safeguarding issues across the city.
- To help cross-agency working.
- To look at the effects of action on front line practice.
- To increase awareness of new policy and procedures.
- To identify emerging safeguarding issues.

Organisations are invited to put forwards speakers, presentations and items that are of interest to the forum members. Partnership updates are also shared via the Forums mailing list.

Two forums were held in November and March, with sessions focusing on: Right Help, Right Time; Signs of Safety; Early Help; Extra Familial Harm and Child Exploitation in line with the current priorities.

The forum has adapted in innovative ways to maintain communication and discussions with partners, utilising chat functions and virtual polling software to obtain feedback on the forum, current safeguarding concerns and what members would like to see in future meetings. Meetings continue to be recorded and shared with members so they can be used in training sessions and by members unable to attend.

The feedback received from members remain 100% positive and we continue to grow our membership.





Voice of the child

Following last year's S11 Audit, it was highlighted that there was a weakness in relation to using the Voice of the Child to inform service provision.

Following the finding, the recommendation to the CSCP Board was that for 2021-2022 agencies are asked to consider this on 2 occasions throughout the year. The feedback received from agencies show an increased effort to incorporate the Voice of the Child in service provision, whilst adapting the collection and use of the Voice of the Child to face the challenges posed by Covid-19 and an increased use of virtual service delivery methods.

The Voice of the Child underpins practice across agencies, such as:

- A Think Family model of Safeguarding adopted within the South Warwickshire Foundation Trust and University Hospital College and Warwickshire Trust.
- Voice of the Child features in West Midlands Police Case Survey Dip Sample to identify issues or themes that can then be targeted with CPD
- Voice of the Child is used in weekly supervision paperwork in the Family Nurse Partnership.

Online and virtual platforms have been developed and improved to better capture and respond to the Voice of the Child:

- Apps like the Mind of My Own app enables young people to express themselves and communicate with professionals and the Leaving Well app used within Through Care enables care leavers to play an active role within their pathway plan.
- The Chat Health service is available for young people at secondary school to text the School Nursing service for confidential advice and support.
- Young people are being consulted as to whether they have sessions in a virtual setting.

Participation groups remain a key means of gathering and engaging with the Voice of the Child.

- There are 4 key young people led groups within Children Services (Coventry Youth Council; Voices of Care; Little Voices; The Care Leavers Voice) and others across the Partnership such as Coventry Warwickshire Partnership Trust's Youth Group.
- Young People are also part of the Coventry Corporate Parenting Board and given the opportunity to meet peers from across the West Midlands to discuss concerns from a regional and national perspective.

Feedback is gathered to ensure the Voice of the Child remains at the centre of services and necessary improvements are made.

- This is recorded in a child friendly way and direct feedback from the child is encouraged. For example University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire now directly request children to leave feedback using a Trust iPad or through child friendly questionnaires.
- Children & young people should always be offered the opportunity to speak to staff alone as part of routine practice and some services also include a 'child only' assessment component.
- School Nurses currently utilise the Lancaster Model sending questionnaires to children in years 6 and 9 where they can ask for help or advice.
- The Clinical Commissioning Group has placed focus on engaging the Voice of the Child when recommissioning of Tier 2 mental health services. Child friendly surveys, discussions via the Voices of Care panel and 1:1 zoom calls have all been utilised.

The Voice of the Child has been at the heart of informing service provision:

- The Young inspectors project allows young people to inspect various aspects of children's services and share finding and recommendations with senior leadership.
- Within Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust Services children, where age and cognition appropriate, have the ability to contribute to their continuing care assessments and advance care plans should they wish, and the documentation has been designed to support this.
- The Voice of the Child was encouraged during the Express Yourself theme of Childrens Mental Health Week and in Coventry this was shared through the #ThanksKids initiative, involving young people in making choices about wards, contributing ideas and images for the social media campaign and also helping to design the new Rise logo.
- In infants and very young children South Warwickshire Foundation Trust services utilise assessment tools and play as means for them to hear the Voice of the Child. The Family Nurse Partnership also ask questions to help carers see the world through their baby's eyes and recognise the baby as an individual being.
- The Clinical Commissioning Group has used people with lived experience of autism and their families as experts in their own lives, commissioning Grapevine to oversee co-production of a Keyworking Pilot to ensure experts were clear about the ask and were able to contribute in a meaningful way with support.
- Within Coventry, NSPCC participation work involves participating in service development, events at the centre, fundraising events and staff recruitment.
- Coventry College encourages learners to attend Child in Need meetings when they are at college as feedback previously shows they feel more comfortable and confident to express their own views within the college setting.

- It is recognised that some young people 'bed hop' between Warwick and Coventry and through working together the best outcomes can be more successfully achieved. South Warwickshire Foundation Trust has appointed a Lead Nurse for Children and Young People in Crisis based on the Paediatric Ward at Warwick Hospital giving the opportunity for young people to have their voice heard and acted upon.
- University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire Trust works with St Giles to help capture and promote the Voice of the Child, offering timely and tailored support to admitted young people under the age of 25, who have been victims of, or are likely to become victims of a violent attack (youth, gang and domestic violence).



 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Performance Scorecard 2020/21 – Outcomes for Children

The Audit and Performance subgroup prepare a performance scorecard for the year which aligns to the Board priorities and business plan. The performance scorecard is a dynamic document to which partners can contribute, to help our understanding of the stories of children and young people in Coventry. The subgroup analyses the data that is received at each quarter with a recognition that the data will continue to develop.

Priority 1: Neglect

Abuse category as referred into Children's Services (% of cases featuring neglect as the primary or co-morbid referral reason)

Open Cases at Quarter End with Neglect as Primary Need (% of all cases)	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Early Help (Neglect) <i>Primary needs are not currently reportable for more recent Early Help episodes, therefore this figures is expected to be understated</i>	32 (2.7%)	19 (1.9%)	18 (1.7%)	15 (1.2%)	9 (0.8%)
CIN (Abuse or Neglect) *	1345 (88.2%)	1277 (88.5%)	1696 (90.7)	1673 (91.3%)	1532 (90.8%)
Child Protection Plans (Neglect)	129 (33.2%)	161 (38.7%)	164 (38.8%)	154 (33.3%)	168 (36.1%)
Looked After Children (Abuse or Neglect)	631 (89.4%)	634 (90.2%)	690 (91.8%)	696 (91.7%)	695 (91.9%)

*Abuse and neglect cannot be reported separately as the data download 'groups' them as a category

Number of children subject to a child protection plan which features neglect as a primary risk

New Plans	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of children subject to a child protection plan which features neglect as a primary risk	39	56	46	56	56
% of all child protection plans	32.0%	46.7%	36.5 %	29.6%	35.2%

All Current Plans at Quarter End	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of children subject to a child protection plan which features neglect as a primary risk	129	161	164	154	168
% of all child protection plans	33.2%	38.7%	38.8%	33.3%	36.1%

Number of child removals which feature neglect as a co-morbid risk

	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of Care Orders (C1, C2) with CIN Code of Abuse/Neglect	37	24	37	29	27
% of all Care Orders (C1, C2)	100.0%	100.0%	97.4%	100.0%	100.0%

Number of open cases which feature neglect as a primary or co-morbid risk broken down by age

	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Children In Need (Abuse or Neglect)					
Aged 0-4	424	425	484	474	403
Aged 5-10	448	407	583	553	516
Aged 11-14	269	278	352	343	306
Aged 15+	204	167	230	243	242
Child Protection Plan (Neglect)					
Aged 0-4	47	64	52	47	48
Aged 5-10	45	51	48	44	50
Aged 11-14	23	29	33	38	36
Aged 15+	14	17	20	20	24
Looked After Children (Abuse or Neglect)					
Aged 0-4	149	154	166	165	181
Aged 5-10	154	152	172	172	164
Aged 11-14	151	148	162	169	174
Aged 15+	177	180	190	190	176

Number of children or young people subject to a rapid review this quarter where neglect was in any way a factor

	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of children or young people subject to a rapid review this quarter where neglect was in any way a factor	0	0	1	0	1

Across the year the subgroup noted the increase in children subject to Child Protection Plans and Child in Need plans where neglect is a primary feature. There was also a reduced number of children coming off plans, meaning more children in total held in the system. The subgroup understood that there was understandable reluctance to remove children from CPPs during Covid without professionals having accessed them and their homes in a thorough way to ensure risk is sufficiently reduced. There has been an increase in the number of contact and referrals coming into the MASH throughout the pandemic and demand remains high. The increase in Child Protection Plans, therefore, must be seen in the context of an increase in cases overall. During the year, there were 2 rapid reviews where neglect was a factor. The subgroup is currently exploring whether other datasets, such as health data around child protection medicals, can help to inform our city-wide picture of neglect.

Priority 2 – Contextual

Police total number of Crime or Non-Crime records with a CSE “Special Interest Marker”

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Regional CSE reports (Force-wide)	281	190	Not received	224
Coventry specific CSE reports	39	34	Not received	27
Coventry % of total CSE reports	13%	18%	Not received	12%

Number of young people at risk of CSE (cumulative) from the Horizon team

	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Low risk	10	5	17	22	32
Medium risk	10	9	6	19	26
High risk	1	1	3	5	6

Number of children who experienced a reduction in their CSE risk level

Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
3	2	1	1	4

Missing children and young people

	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of Missing Episodes started (number of children involved)	353 (134)	358 (148)	327 (148)	385 (192)	344 (161)

% of Return Home Interviews (YTD) being completed within timescale

Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
63.4	70	72.1	59	75.6

Police arrests and convictions in respect of CE and CSE

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of arrests/convictions in respect of CSE	5/2	4/0	Not received	1/1
Number of arrests/convictions in respect of wider CE				

Number of children missing from education for more than 10 consecutive days, by school category (year to date):

	Primary	Secondary	PRU	Other	Total	% of school age population
Last Q4	181	111	3	49	335	0.7%
Q1	174	126	1	11	312	0.7%
Q2	253	114	0	6	373	0.7%
Q3	123	69	0	6	198	0.4%
Q4	128	63	0	17	208	0.4%

The Horizon team has seen a significant increase in young people at risk of CSE across all levels in the last year; they are currently working on a new, improved dataset which should present a more accurate picture of CE and CSE. The subgroup is developing the data measures around this priority which will be helpful to understand wider exploitation in Coventry as the scorecard evolves.

Priority 3 – Making the System Work

% of staff currently trained in child safeguarding awareness

STATUTORY AGENCY	COMPLIANCE AT Q1	COMPLIANCE AT Q2	COMPLIANCE AT Q3	COMPLIANCE AT Q4	CAVEAT
COVENTRY CC	72	64	86	88	Calculated at 3 years (employer requirement)
UHCW	96.54	95.48	96.39	94.9	Calculated at 3 year (employer requirement)
CCG	88		91.4	91.8	Calculated at 3 year (employer requirement)
CWPT	92.3		94.4	94.9	Calculated annually (employer requirement)
SWFT	90	92	92	93	Calculated at 3 year (employer requirement)
West Midlands Police	Not received	Not received	Not received	Not received	Not Known
CRC	Not received	Not received	Not received	Not received	Calculated at 3 year (employer requirement)
NPS	Not received	Not received	Not received	Not received	Calculated at 3 year (employer requirement)

% of MASH referrals which resulted in No Further Action

	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
% of referrals (YTD)	5.1	5.8	5.4	5.3	5.9

% of re-referrals back into MASH by month for this quarter

	Last Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Regional	National
% of re-referrals (YTD)	24.9	24.5	25.7	24.7	25.1	*23.0	*22.6

*2019/20 average

Partner attendance at Right Help, Right Time

Agency	2018/19 total attendance	2019/20 total attendance	Q1	Q2	Q3 (delivered virtually)	Q4 (delivered virtually)
Coventry City Council	77	36	-	-	2	9
Education	148	78	-	-	6	22
Education – academies/ private/independent	-	19	-	-	0	0
Third Sector	29	0	-	-	8	2
Faith	0	1	-	-	0	0
Early Years	4	18	-	-	0	8
Probation	26	11	-	-	1	0
Police	1	1	-	-	0	0
Health	97	47	-	-	18	33
Other					1	1
Not known (did not book on but attended)	0	0	-	-	-	-

Partner attendance at Signs of Safety training

Agency	Total for 2019/20	Q1	Q2	Q3 (delivered virtually)	Q4 (delivered virtually)
Education	89	-	14	6	18
Coventry City Council	130	-	27	59	97
Voluntary, private, independent	22	-	3	15	23
Early Years – private and independent	3	-	0	19	24
Health	114		16	18	46
Police	-	-	3	0	0
NPS	4	-	1	0	1
Faith	1	-	0	0	0

Rapid Reviews

	2019-20	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of Rapid Reviews completed	2	0	3	0	2
Number completed on time	2	n/a	3	0	2

Number of Active Safeguarding Practice Reviews per quarter

	2019-20	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of active SPRs	0	0	1	1	1

Number of formal escalations into the CSCP

	2019-20	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of formal escalations	0	0	0	0	0

In relation to referrals into the MASH, those that resulted in No Further Action for Quarter 4 is 5.9% which means for these referrals, information and advice was provided to families, members of the public and professionals and further intervention from statutory Children's Services and Early Help services was either not required at this stage or declined from the family. In Quarter 4, 25.1% of children/young people that had been open to Children's Services within the last 12 months had been re-referred back to Coventry MASH which is slightly higher than the regional and national data although the subgroup learned that the national and regional average figure (in the table above) is 2019/20; the 2020/21 average will be available later on this year.

Training compliance for most agencies has been maintained throughout the year. Signs of Safety and Right Help Right Time training sessions were both withdrawn at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic however both sessions recommenced in Quarter 3 using virtual delivery methods and are being accessed by most agencies across the partnership. The continued roll-out of these workshops is contributing to a greater understanding of the help and support available to families for practitioners.



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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 27th January 2022

Subject: Family Health and Lifestyles service Annual Report 2020-21

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 The paper updates the Education and Children's Scrutiny Board on the Family Health and Lifestyles Service Annual Report 2020-21.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
 - 1) Note the findings from the Family Health and Lifestyles Service Annual Report 2020-21
 - 2) Identify any further recommendations for the Cabinet Member

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 The Family Health and Lifestyles Service went live on 1st September 2018 and is provided by South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust. It brings together the following services; Health Visiting, School Nursing, Be Active Be Healthy, Family Nurse Partnership, Stop Smoking in Pregnancy, Infant Feeding and MAMTA (offering support to BAME families ante-natally and postnatally).

4 Key achievements

- 4.1 The service has continued to work closely with Public Health and partners so that children and families receive a safe service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report highlights service user feedback which has been positive. The service is described as helpful, knowledgeable, experienced, and passionate by service users.
- 4.2 The service has continued to offer all Health Visiting universal mandated health contacts throughout the different levels of lock-down. This offer has been through a blended approach of virtual, telephone and face to face contacts. An evidence based assessment tool has been introduced for Health Visitors to use with parents (the outcome star) to identify parents need and ensure effective support is delivered in areas such as mental health, relationships and looking after a baby. The service has also received local recognition winning awards for the work completed by Health Visiting for example, in supporting vulnerable families including those families who are Asylum Seekers and Refugees.
- 4.3 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the service has focused on enhancing its digital offer for families including the use of 'Chat Health' which provides a text messaging facility allowing parents to contact a Health Visitor digitally. 4010 text messages were received from families over 18 months. A parent line has also been available for the School Nursing service. The service has promoted the use of apps such as DadPad designed to provide

dads with the knowledge and resources to support themselves, their partners and give their child the best start in life.

- 4.4 To support vulnerable families in the city, the service has launched a new programme called 'Becoming a Parent' which includes additional visits in the ante-natal period and post-natal period to support families in their transition to parenthood. The Family Nurse Partnership Service has continued to support teenage parents across the city. The team have successfully rolled out a personalisation programme so that the care offer has flexibility, based on the individual families needs.
- 4.5 MAMTA has continued to support BAME communities antenatally and postnatally. The service was redesigned to support all BAME families across the whole city. User feedback has been excellent with users feeding back positively about support received during lock down through phone calls, zoom sessions and face to face sessions.
- 4.6 As part of the City of Culture celebrations the infant feeding team joined forces with, "Holding Time" a multidisciplinary, collaborative project challenging the cultural stigmas surrounding breastfeeding. The infant feeding clinics held in the Family Hubs have seen an increase in demand leading to an increase in sessions held. The infant feeding team now offer four Breastfeeding support clinics and two Specialist clinics held weekly across the City. There is now a blended offer, including virtual support, as well as home visiting for those that require extra support.
- 4.7 The Stop Smoking in Pregnancy team broadened their service offer to include a bespoke option. Sessions are offered within the home, Family Hubs, virtually or by phone depending on service users choice and vulnerabilities. An increase in referrals to the Stop Smoking in Pregnancy team has been received and an increase in the number of women who have quit smoking has been achieved.
- 4.8 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the School Nurses have identified an increased demand for emotional well-being support required by school aged children. Therefore an increased number of emotional well-being sessions have been delivered across schools in Coventry.
- 4.9 The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) measures heights and weights of children at Reception and Year 6. A national target to complete 10% of schools in each local area was set when the programme recommenced in May 2021. The service exceeded the national target by completing 80% of schools locally. This identified an increased number of children who were not in a healthy weight range; support was offered from the service to enable children and families to have a healthier future improving nutrition and exercise levels. The Be Active Be Healthy team have continued to support families within Coventry with a number of sessions focused on improving physical activity such as Active Tots, a family targeted exercise session for parents to attend with their toddlers.

5 The report highlights the following priorities for 2021/22:

- Embed and develop further new service offers; Becoming a Parent Offer, New School Questionnaire, Outcome Star and rolling this out into School Nursing.
- Continue to build on partnership working; key focus on Supporting Families and providing seamless care for families
- Sustainable work-force; ensure that the health and well-being of our work-force is prioritised and establish effective teams through welcoming new skill-mix to the teams
- Further build on the digital offer; increase social media presence, further embed excellent virtual offer that meets the needs of our children and families.

6 Health Inequalities Impact

- 6.1 The service aims to give every child the best start in life ensuring there is an even greater focus on service provision to those with more health inequalities in Coventry.

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Appendices: Family Health and Lifestyles Service 2020-21

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Family Health and Lifestyle Services

Annual Report 2020/2021

Foreword from Glen Burley, CEO and Anne Coyle, Managing Director

It has been another fantastic year for Family Health and Lifestyle Services as the teams have continued to innovate, at the same time as meeting the increasing demand that has arisen over an exceptionally challenging year. Over 2020/21 our colleagues across FH&LS have worked incredibly hard and risen to the challenges faced, with determination to continue to deliver services to children, young people and families. We are delighted to be able to share some of the highlights with you, in this report. There has been innovation and achievements across all of our services. A key highlight of the year was staff's creativity and innovation in the delivery of services whilst ensuring Government and NHS guidelines were adhered to.

All of this positive work is thanks to the dedicated and passionate teams within the services, our staff really are at the heart of what we do; so thank you to each and every one of you.

A word from Family Health and Lifestyles Leadership Team: Charlotte Finlayson (General Manager), Rachel Sproston (Locality Manager) and Helen Efstatiades (FNP Supervisor)

'Again this year, Family Health and Lifestyles Services has displayed it's culture of agility, moving at a pace to adopt ways of working, capturing opportunities with our partners and delivering service offers that meet the needs of the communities that we work with. The service has faced unprecedented demand leading to the service facing immense pressure.

We are very proud of how all of our teams have continued to support each other. We would like to thank our colleagues for their passion, dedication and resilience over the past year. It is our colleagues flexibility, as they juggled competing responsibilities, that has enabled the service to provide excellent care to children and families across Coventry.

Congratulations to Rachel Sproston, Locality Manager of Family Health and Lifestyles who received an award from the Director of Public Health for her outstanding contribution to public health.



Finally we wish to thank all our colleagues within the Public Health Department in Coventry Council for their on-going support and encouragement to deliver effective services across Coventry.

Going forward the service will build on the learning acquired throughout the pandemic and our strategy is to build on the trust with our families and stakeholders and deliver on sustained outcomes that make a difference. '

Introduction

Commissioned by Coventry Public Health in Coventry City Council, South Warwickshire Foundation Trust are proud to deliver Family Health and Lifestyles Services.

We are pleased to present this report for the academic year 2020/21 which was Family Health and Lifestyle Service's (FH&LS) third year, following the integration of seven services in September 2018;

- Health Visiting
- School Nursing
- Infant Feeding
- Stop Smoking in Pregnancy
- Family Nurse Partnership
- Be Active Be Healthy
- MAMTA (*delivered through sub-contracting arrangements*)

Our third year has focused on continuing to deliver an excellent service to children and families in an adapted way, due to the challenges of COVID. The service has also continued to take the opportunity to innovate, particularly through launching an increased digital offer to families and adapt to the changing needs of communities.

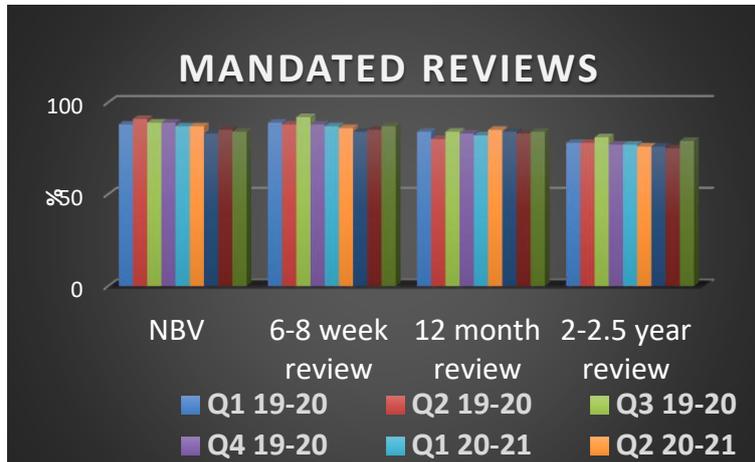
This report provides key highlights from the services with Family Health and Lifestyles, focusing on service developments that have enabled services to meet the changing needs of communities.

Over the year, the service has delivered on the aims and objectives that were set for 2020/21;

Objective	Outcome
Embed new digital offers where they provide effective care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of chat health • Increased use of social media and skill set across work-force in offering care on digital platforms • Launched Dad's Pad <i>These are show-cased throughout this report</i>
We will be completing UNICEF Re-accreditation to ensure that we give a world-class service in supporting effective feeding, promoting attachment and positive parenting.	<p>UNICEF Re-accreditation took place June 2021 and the service achieved 41/45 of the required criteria. Plans in place to achieve remaining criteria by December 2021.</p> <p><i>See Infant Feeding section for further information</i></p>
Training and roll out of new Electronic Patient Record, to help services across Family Health and Lifestyles wrap care around the family.	Launched new electronic record in January 2021. All services across FH&LS now access the same record, to provide seamless care to families.
Develop a pathway of care for young and vulnerable parents.	<p>A working group has developed a Becoming a Parent Pathway. This will be launched September 2021</p> <p><i>See Health Visiting section for more information</i></p>
Launch the use of the Outcome Star across Health Visiting, to help our practitioners to work closely with parents to identify need and ensure effective support is delivered.	<p>The Health Visiting Team have been trained in how to use the Outcome Star with families. This is now being offered to all families across Coventry.</p> <p><i>See Health Visiting section for more information</i></p>
Further develop integrated working with other services and partners.	Integrated working has continued to flourish, with a focus on population health and joint working with other services.

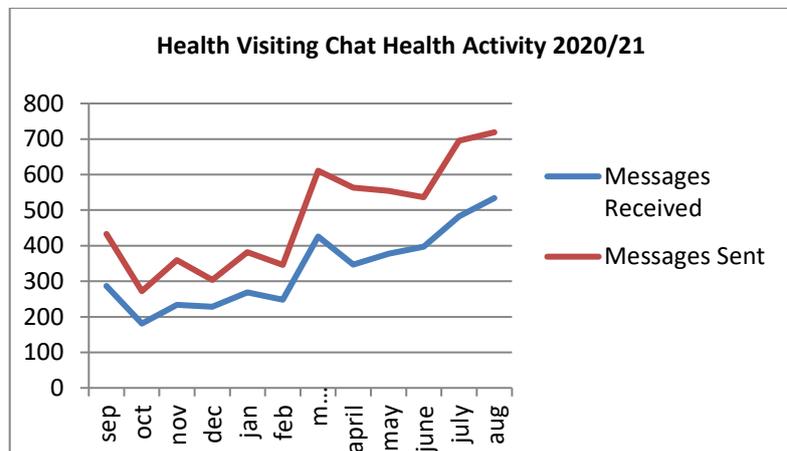
Health Visiting Service

Across Coventry, during the past 12 months, we have continued to maintain our delivery of mandated contacts, through a blended offer including; video and telephone, clinic appointments and home visiting, as part of the 'Healthy Child Programme.



Our Chat Health service has now been running for over eighteen months and the service is well established. It is widely promoted and over the year, 4010 text messages have been received through this offer, with an on-going increase in use of the service.

16 experienced health visitors deliver the Chat Health service and support parents with concerns such as colic, reflux, feeding, minor illnesses and sleep.



Service Innovations across Health Visiting

One of the key service developments for Health Visiting in 2020/21 was the launch of the outcome star.

Parent and Baby Star™

The Outcomes Star for perinatal mental health and well-being



We have introduced and successfully trained all our Health Visitors to use the 'Mother and Baby' Outcome Star with families.

This is an evidence based tool which is used collaboratively with clients during the ante-natal and 6-8 week post-natal contact. It is empowering and person centred. All stars underpinned by 5 point scale based on the journey of change.

This tool can measure 'value added' and change brought about by Health Visitors in their work with families.

The Parent and Baby star which looks at 7 areas:

Mental Health, physical health, housing & essentials, relationship, support networks, looking after your baby, connecting with your baby.



We are excited to announce the launch of our new "Dad's Pad App", designed to give dad's the knowledge and resources to support themselves, their partner and give their baby the best possible start in life. All new dads will be introduced to this app via their Health Visitor as early as possible, to help them prepare for fatherhood.

Becoming a Parent Pathway

The service recognised that there was a gap in service provision for some of our most vulnerable families. This includes those that do not want to accept the Family Nurse Partnership Offer. Over the past year, the Health Visiting Team have been developing skills, to work with vulnerable families. A working group has established a pathway, involving all the services across FH&LS, for those families who require targeted support. The Becoming a Parent offer includes additional visits in the ante-natal period and post-natal period from a multi-disciplinary team, using the outcome star to support the journey of change for these families, in their transition to parent hood.

All of the Family Health and Lifestyle teams have received training from Family Nurse Partnership focused on; attachment, marginalised families, the teenage brain and communication skills. The Family Nurse Partnership Team will also offer supervision and on-going support to colleagues offering this care, to ensure that families receive the best care.

The Becoming a Parent pathway launched in September 2021 and will continue to be evaluated and adapted, using the feedback of the families who receive this service. This is an incredibly innovative development and will be shared nationally, as good practice through the Family Nurse Partnership Unit.

Revised work-force model

We are delighted to have adapted our work-force model to be able to meet the changing need of our communities. Over the Summer 2021 we have recruited a Staff Nurse to join each Health Visiting Team. This complements our multi-agency team that includes Clinical Assistants, Nursery Nurses, Health Visitors and Specialist Health Visitors. This role will also support our future Health Visiting Workforce as these colleagues will progress with training to become our future qualified Health Visitors, providing sustainability for the Health Visiting Team.

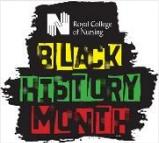
Coventry Health Visiting Recognition Awards

It has been a delight that some of our colleagues across Family Health and Lifestyles have been recognised in various awards.

We are delighted this year that our two 'Specialist Health Visitors' Veera Samra and Lynda Evans won the Coventry Health and Wellbeing 'Covid Heroes' award 2021. Veera and Lynda work with the most vulnerable families within Coventry including those families who are Asylum seekers, refugees, homeless, victims of domestic abuse, women's refuge, BAME and a diverse range of ethnic minority groups.

During Covid they continued to support those families, delivering baby equipment, food parcels and maintaining essential contact making sure those families still had the additional support they needed during a very challenging time.

Veera Samra was also nominated and won the RCN "BAHM-Making a difference" award 2021. For improving health outcomes and nursing practice in her everyday work with this complex population of clients, compassionately building rapport and trust, giving advice and guidance, advocating and building their self-confidence as parents and children



Lynda Evans and Veera Samra receiving COVID Heroes Award

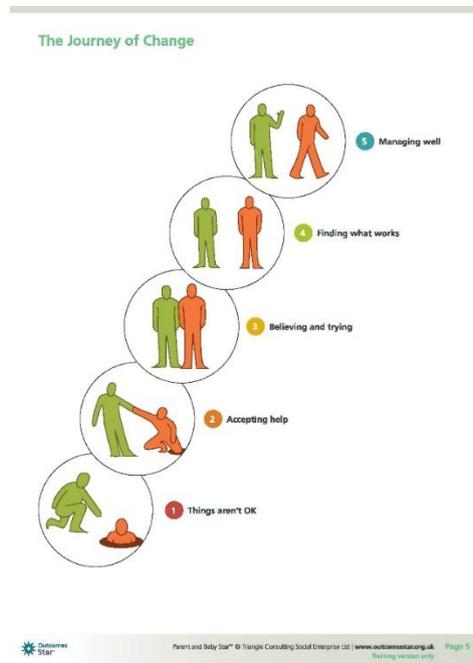


Veera Samra receiving Making a Difference Award from Fiona Burton (Director of Nursing) & Dilly Wilkinson (Associate Director)

Family Nurse Partnership

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) team have had a busy year, adapting to working in COVID safe ways, supporting increased vulnerability across the community as well as rolling out the new personalisation programme. COVID has highlighted the excellent team work, within the FNP team and partnership work across Family Health and Lifestyle Services as well as their excellent partnership work across Coventry. Throughout this challenging year, the team maintained a level of face to face home visiting to their clients, ensuring that those most in need had the opportunity for face to face care with their nurse. The team also continued to work flexibly and innovatively exploring a variety of places to meet with their clients, not only at home and family hubs but also in various outdoor venues as appropriate.

The team have successfully rolled out personalisation across the FNP service. This means that the care offer has flexibility, based on the individual needs of the family, that they are working with. One of the most exciting aspects of this, is the role out of the New Mum's Star. The new mum's star looks at different aspects of the parent's life and identifies what is going well and where further support is required, to progress through the Journey of Change, to being in a good place. Clients have enjoyed working with their FNP Nurse to complete the New Mum star and see their journey.



The role out of personalisation also involved introducing a new patient record system called Turas. The team have worked hard to adjust to the new system, that will further support the programme in the future.

The FNP Team have also lead on the development of a new care package to be delivered by the Health Visiting team, titled 'Becoming a Parent Programme'. This programme is designed for those families who need more support, having either declined or not reached the referral criteria to have care under the FNP Team. The FNP team are using their skills to support the Health Visiting Team and will be offering supervision to Health Visitors and Nursery Nurses who deliver this programme. In addition, the FNP team have shared their vast knowledge and skills to develop the skill set of all colleagues across Family Health and Lifestyle Services, by delivering FNP Key Skills Exchange (KSE) webinars to the FHLS team. This sessions have been attended with enthusiasm, increasing skills and knowledge in the teenage brain and attachment have been well evaluated.

The FNP Team are a key asset to Coventry and increase sills within the children's services team, including the Looked After and Leaving care Team. The team regularly attends the social worker academy to present to social work students. The FNP team have provided health leadership across a number of service improvement groups, both within the Family Health and Lifestyle Services and across Coventry.

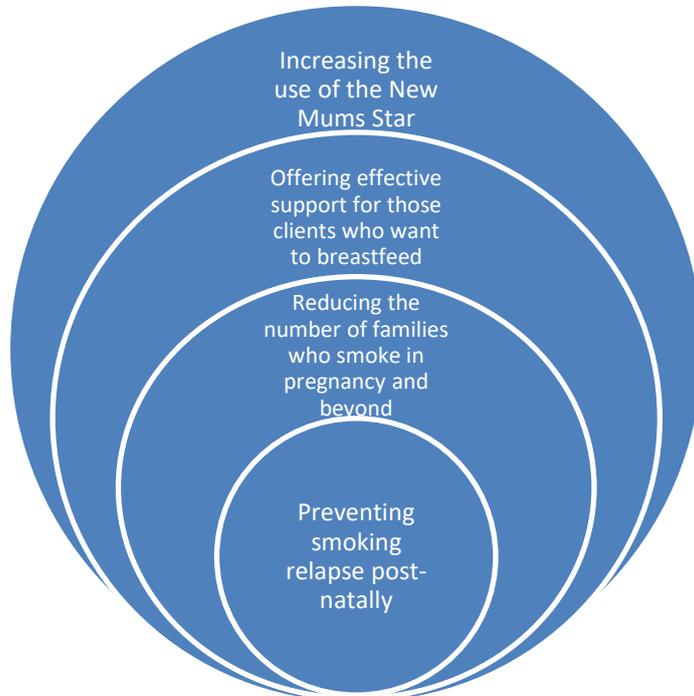
What are we currently seeing in Family Nurse Partnership?

- Referrals that are being received by the team have increased in complexity over the past year.
- Increased partnership working, particularly with the ibumps (teenage) midwifery team. Referrals are now being received more timely with an increase of 34% clients enrolled within required time-scales.
- The case-load has a median age of 17 years with minimum of 14 years and maximum of 20 years.
- Evidence from the FNP Turas database shows that the team are working with clients that live within the top 3 English Index of multiple Deprivation (EIMD) in Coventry with 68% of the caseload.





Priorities for FNP 2021/22



Infant Feeding and Stop Smoking in Pregnancy Services

Infant Feeding Team

The Coventry Infant feeding team believes that everyone should be able to breastfeed their children for as long as they wish. We know the difference that good support makes to the mental health and wellbeing of parents and babies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed several challenges to the provision of new-born nutrition and care interventions including maternal support and breastfeeding. Early research indicates that lockdown and isolation has led to a decrease of exclusive breastfeeding. However the past year has been a huge success for breast-feeding rates in Coventry, with an increase in the number of mother's that breastfeed for 6 weeks and beyond. Breast-feeding rates across Coventry are at 52%, above the national aggregate breastfeeding rate for England is 48%

There have been a wide range of provisions offered across Coventry to support breast-feeding and infant feeding. The Infant feeding clinics held in the hubs have been inundated post COVID and in response to the demand, the team now offer three Breastfeeding Peer support clinics and two Specialist clinics, that are held weekly across the City. There is now a blended offer, including virtual support that has proved very popular as it is timely and effective, as well as home visiting for those that require extra support. This year the team have also launched virtual Infant feeding MASTER-CLASSES covering common feeding issues and solutions and our Antenatal virtual groups. These have been promoted to all of the family and it has been a joy to see fathers attending.

New social media campaign and resources



Celebrated Journeys with picnics in the park



Due to increase demand we now have 5 infant feeding clinics a week across the city,
3 peer led clinics
2 specialist clinics
Providing more support for our families.

UNICEF UK Baby Friendly



The NHS Long Term Plan recommends UNICEF UK Baby Friendly accreditation across all maternity and community services and highlights the importance of Baby Friendly accreditation in supporting breastfeeding rates.

Coventry is a Unicef BFI accredited city. In June 2021 the Health Visiting, Family Nurse Partnership and Infant Feeding Service underwent the vigorous and prestigious Unicef baby friendly Re-accreditation assessment. We were absolutely delighted with the outcome, achieving 41/45 of the pass criteria. Whilst we strive to achieve all elements, given the unprecedented challenges faced by the service, achieving 41 of the criteria was a huge success.

The UNICEF assessors reported:

“The staff at The Family health and Lifestyle Service 0-19, South Warwickshire Foundation Trust are commended for their hard work over the last two years in continuing to support mothers. It was clear to the assessment team that pregnant women and new mothers continue to receive a high standard of care throughout the pandemic.”

Going forward the exit plan involves a blended approach utilising the virtual offer, developing social media and virtual work further and offering face to face contacts in Coventry City Council family hubs.

“



Even through the most Challenging times we scored an impressive 41/45 in our reaccreditation

My breastfeeding journey has been a success because of you

Thank you so much for today feel like a whole new person already. Looking forwards to going from strength to strength now with our feeding journey, lovely to know we have the help and support

I'm truly grateful for you being my constant support in the most difficult times

I wouldn't have been able to make it this far if it wasn't for yourself, and team

Thank you so much for your support with baby, I'm so happy I've been successful so I can feed him how I wanted too

Reassuring and caring nature has allowed me to feel more confident in continuing on my breast feeding journey. If I hadn't reached out for support then I may have resorted to giving my daughter a bottle

As part of the City of Culture celebrations the IF team joined forces with, "Holding time" a multi-disciplinary, collaborative project challenging the cultural stigmas surrounding breastfeeding. During the summer Breastfeeding took centre stage when The Holding Time Project opened in Coventry. This inter-disciplinary, multi-channel, multi-media art project was co-created by mothers, as part of a lottery funded initiative by Visual Artist Lisa Creagh. The Holding Time Project celebrated the diversity of breastfeeding in Coventry, whilst overturning stereotypes, challenging assumptions about breastfeeding and encouraged greater understanding and awareness in the whole community. The project included writing breastfeeding stories, photography, video and installation shown in various locations across the city as well as online and on social media. Members of our team and volunteers took part in the project which was rolled out on the airwaves too.



Stop Smoking Team

The Coventry Stop Smoking in Pregnancy service has been concerned with the impact that smoking during pregnancy and beyond has on the health of mothers, children, and families. This issue disproportionately impacts the poorest and most vulnerable families in our City and must be tackled to break the cycle of inequality afflicting so many communities. Evidence shows that COVID-19 has compounded these inequalities, placing an additional burden on poorer communities with high rates of infant mortality, partly attributable to high rates of smoking. Tackling smoking in the most deprived areas is vital for delivering an equitable recovery from the pandemic, building population health resilience, and driving down infant mortality.

The Government’s 2021 Tobacco Control Plan set a target for reducing Smoking at the Time of Delivery (SATOD) to 4% by 2026, putting England on track to deliver a smoke free start for every child by 2030. In addition, the Plan includes a target to reduce Smoking at Time of Booking (SATOB) to access midwifery services to 6% by 2026, on track to reach 2% by 2030. Coventry Stop Smoking in Pregnancy team in partnership with UHCW are working towards this target. The most recent data for SATOD was 7% which has significantly reduced from 10% last year. One of the biggest successes for the Stop Smoking in Pregnancy Team is that the referral rate to the service has increased significantly. This is following successful on-going service promotion and partnership work. This has ensured more families get the support that they need resulting in an increased Quit rate has increased of 54%!

The team have continued to deliver a blended service offer, of face to face and virtual support including an on-line/telephone/video service for all clients referred to the service during Covid19 period. Solutions included using WhatsApp video and telephone calls to suit the client’s needs and requirements. Booked face to face appointments are being offered in clinic and in homes where appropriate. We aim to resume CO validation monitoring in the Autumn, to support the motivation and demonstrate the successes of our clients commitment to stopping smoking.

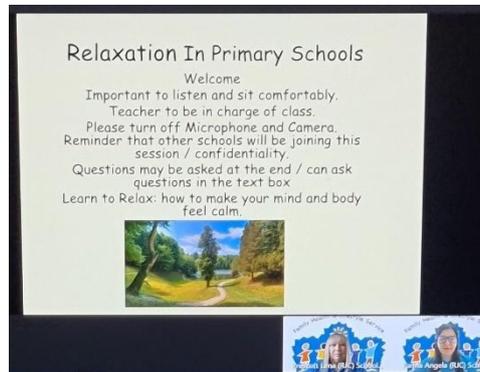
The team always seek opportunities for team work and have teamed up with a third sector organisation called “Coffee tots”, a cafe in Coventry city centre for parents and young children run by the charity

School Nursing Service

Over the past year, the school nursing team have addressed an increased demand for care, as well as rolled out a number innovations. The team has worked creatively to offer high quality interventions to children, young people and their families, whilst minimising the risk of transmission of infection. The team have remained visible and accessible, whilst abiding by national restrictions.

Our priorities over the last year have focused on addressing the indirect impact of the pandemic, as well as adapting our service offer to address changing needs of children and families. Some of the highlights of the year are;

The team have seen an increased demand for emotional well-being support and an increased number of safeguarding concerns to address. To support emotional well-being the service has delivered emotional well-being sessions widely across schools in Coventry. This educated children in the importance of relaxation and taught techniques that can easily be used to support positive mental well-being.



National guidance stopped the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) due to COVID and was recommenced in May 2021, when the national target was to complete 10% of schools in each local area. The School Nursing team in Coventry was aware that many children had been less active throughout the pandemic and may have not eaten as nutritiously. Therefore the team felt it was important to go over and above this national target and prioritise the completion of NCMP, aspiring to complete weight and height checks of all children in Coventry. The service completed 80% of schools within a short period of time. It was important to do this and did identify an increased number of children who were not in a healthy weight range, (both over and under the healthy weight range). All of these children were offered support from either our School Nursing Team or Be Active Be Healthy Team, to enable children and families to have a healthier future, offering support on behaviour, nutrition and active movement.

80% of Reception children (3456) took part in the NCMP measurements. 49 were identified as underweight, 341 overweight and 379 very overweight.

82% of Year 6 Children (3614) took part in the NCMP measurements. 54 were identified as underweight, 604 overweight 776 very over weight.

All those children who were overweight or very over-weight (a total of 2100 families) have been contacted by the Be Active Be Healthy Team for support. The 103 underweight children have also been contacted by the School Nursing Team for support.

The School Nursing Team have rolled out a revised health questionnaire for year 6 and year 9 pupils. In conjunction with Leicester Partnership Trust, Coventry School Nursing Team have developed a new online health assessment tool, that is more meaningful and easier for children to complete. The questions now used are better suited to the local area health needs and priorities and were developed through focus groups that included pupils, parents and schools, to ensure the questionnaire is as effective as possible.

During this challenging year the team also continued the delivery of Children in Care Health Assessments. This was offered virtually at the beginning of Covid and then transitioned to be offered in Covid safe environments, in order to ensure that strong relationships were built with the children and families.

The School Nursing Team have focused on rolling out a number of digital innovations over 2020/21, including the following;

Launch of Parent Line

To support families and offer wider options on how our service users can access the service, the School Nursing Team rolled out a parent line, through chat health in February 2021. This service allows parents and carers to text the service for advice and support. This is a confidential service and all messages receive a response within 24 hours (Monday- Friday)



This is in exciting addition to our Chat Health line offered to secondary school age children who can also text a school nurse during the hours of 8am to 5pm on 07520 615730

Both texting services are open all year round and are widely promoted in schools, newsletters and across social media. We have continued to offer and promote resources to support health and well-being, through our websites and social media.



Over the year, the team have continued to develop skills and confidence in delivering training and support virtually. Virtual support has been delivered to provide both one to one and group sessions for children, families and schools. This approach has evaluated well. Service users feedback showed that they received support at a time that was convenient for them, and information was easily accessible. They could easily access support groups for key health needs, including; toileting, sleep, eating and behaviour.

The team have been a key asset to Coventry and have continued to support services across to gain skills. One example is that the School Nursing Team used virtual webinars to deliver the annual awareness sessions to education staff. This includes information and management of treatment for pupils who require an epi-pen, have asthma, diabetes or epilepsy. This proved to be a huge success, with the first session offered through Eventbrite being fully booked with 150 people joining.

Going forward, the awareness sessions will continue to be offered virtually, as school colleagues found it easier to access.

Be Active Be Healthy (BABH) Service



The Be Active Be Healthy (BABH) team aims to reduce the risk of obesity among children by supporting families to reduce weight and adopt healthier long term behaviours. To reduce the stigma associated with childhood obesity, the programmes delivered are open to all and target those children at risk of putting on excess weight; either because the child is overweight or one or both parents are overweight. The service also targets those in greater relative deprivation – primarily by working with schools in deprived areas or with higher proportions of children who are obese / overweight (identified by the NCMP programme).

The BABH team have continued to adapt and evolve service provision, to meet the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. Using client feedback, new referral pathways and new methods of programme delivery have been developed and improved throughout the year.

Bump & Me

The team have maintained their online presence and have continued to deliver a virtual Buggy Workout exercise session. As restrictions eased, the team once again began to deliver physical sessions in parks and community spaces. In May an online client survey was completed to establish if the programme was fully meeting the needs of those attending and importantly what services families would have liked to have had available during their pregnancy. Two clear themes were seen from the responses: Safe exercise through pregnancy and social interaction and peer support.

To meet this need the team developed the Bump & Me exercise programme. Designed to deliver safe exercise through pregnancy, the class is suitable for all fitness levels, with exercises adapted to suit all stages of pregnancy, including low impact aerobics, gentle stretching and strengthening and toning exercises. To complement the classes, exercise videos were produced and shared on social media and the University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) Padlets site, to promote the offer through midwifery services.

Bump&Me online exercise



Partnership Work

To ensure the best chance of success the team partnered with the Public Health Midwives at UHCW. The midwives not only promote the programme to expectant mothers, they also send a referral list of all the women who access their service to the BABH team so a personal invitation can be sent. Working with the midwives, the BABH nutritionist has outlined a plan for a four week nutrition programme called 'Nutrition for Life'. Focusing not only on nutrition but also mindfulness and wellbeing, meeting the need highlighted in the survey responses. Success of this partnership has led to a nomination in the annual Public Health Awards for 'Partnership of the Year', with the service being highly commended.

Improved Referral Pathways across Family Health and Lifestyles Services

It is widely reported that the COVID-19 pandemic will have had a negative effect on childhood obesity. In order offer the best possible support for the Coventry population the BABH team have reviewed and improved two key referral pathways.

Very Overweight Referral Pathway

Working with the School Nurse Team we have updated the Very Over Weight (VOW) referral pathway for those children requiring support following the National Childhood Measurement Programme measures. In addition to sending the invite letter to our weight management interventions the team now directly contact families by phone and then text all families who would benefit from our support. This approach is aimed at improving access to the Be Active Be Healthy Service.

Referral Pathway following 2 year Health Visiting Check

An updated Pathway has been developed to guide Health Visitors on when and where to refer a family for support should concern be identified because of a high BMI centile. Following referral the

families are offered support through the One Body One Life Programme for ages 2- 4 and the new Active Tots sessions.

OBOL 2-4



Active Kidz Online:



New programme - Active Tots

As indoor groups have been restricted the BABH team have looked to develop sessions in outdoor spaces where families could meet following COVID guidelines. Active Tots was established as to complement the online 2-4 sessions so that families were still able to have direct peer support and an opportunity to exercise together safely.

Active Tots



The Be Active Be Healthy Team have had a very successful year, improving the programmes on offer and this has been evidenced in the client feedback that we have received;

Hi. I'm sorry I missed this morning's class due to my daughter's covid test. This should have been my last class as I'm back at work soon 😞 . I just wanted to say thank you for such lovely classes - both online and face to face! I have really enjoyed them, they have helped with my fitness and have been a really fun, sociable opportunity at these strange times. Hopefully I might be able to come to some classes in the summer holidays so I might see you all again.

Thank you 😊



MAMTA - Child and Maternal Health Programme for BAME Women in Coventry

Over the past year, MAMTA has continued to support our diverse communities, ensuring that families are getting the support that they need and are now offering a blended approach to service delivery, with a face to face offer being delivered for those families who require support or choose to meet with the team in person.

2020/2021 has been an exciting year for MAMTA. A working group reviewed the changing needs of BAME communities across Coventry, recognising that the offer from MAMTA needs to be offered across the whole of Coventry and not just in certain areas. Since April 2021, all families have been able to access MAMTA, not just those families in Foleshill, St. Michaels and Stoke.

All BAME ladies can now be referred to MAMTA and will be triaged depending upon their need. All families will receive a contact at 16 weeks gestation and be invited to virtual support groups. Those families who require more support, will have more support throughout the ante-natal period and into the first six months of the post-natal period. We have reviewed best practice and ensured that each contact with families focuses on the changed needs of the communities, considering health inequalities and public health prevention messages. MAMTA are currently working with the midwifery team to ensure that they receive referrals for all families who could benefit from their support.



Service User Feedback;

'MAMTA really helped me in my pregnancy with phone support and the pregnancy sessions, with the correct advice and support I received from professionals. It was a really positive call. I really thank MAMTA for supporting me to prepare for birth.'

'I am now more confident and enjoyed my pregnancy more after speaking to MAMTA.'

'My midwife referred me to MAMTA, when I was three months pregnant. MAMTA supported me in lock down through phone calls and zoom sessions. Then I attended a face to face session in December and this was helpful.'

'I gained a lot of knowledge about my pregnancy. I was not aware of exercise, breastfeeding and labour. MAMTA gave me all the information over the phone and by text.'

'I am so happy that MAMTA called me to give me information in the ante-natal period. I have also been booked to attend parent craft, to learn more.'

The MAMTA team are also integrating further with the FH&LS services. They actively participated in the UNICEF Re-accreditation. UNICEF recognised MAMTA as an innovative service that helps re-inforce the importance of breast-feeding with the diverse range of communities in Coventry. The MAMTA team have also been working with the Health Visiting Team, to offer support to mothers in the early post-natal period, such as supporting mothers with social isolation and are working closely to support families receiving support from Family Nurse Partnership.

Family Health and Lifestyle Priorities 2021/2022

- Embed and develop further new service offers; Becoming a Parent Offer, New School Questionnaire, Outcome Star and role this out into School Nursing.
- Continue to build on partnership working; key focus on Supporting Families and providing seamless care for families
- Sustainable work-force; ensure that the health and well-being of our work-force is prioritised and establish effective teams through welcoming new skill-mix to the teams
- Further build on the digital offer; increase social media presence, further embed excellent virtual offer that meets the needs of our children and families.

Contacts and further information

<https://www.swft.nhs.uk/our-services/children-and-young-peoples-services/coventry-family-health-and-lifestyle-service-0-19-years>

www.facebook.com/coventryfamilyhealthandlifestyleservice

Health Visiting

Telephone Contact Number : **02475189190**

Chat Health text messaging number: **07507329114** This service allows parents/carers to text the service and receive a response within working hours

www.facebook.com/coventryhealthvisitingsservice

Stop Smoking in Pregnancy Service

Telephone Contact number: **024765189190** Opening hours Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm

Infant Feeding Team

Telephone Contact Number : **024765189190** or **07904984620** Opening Hours Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm

School Nursing Team

Chat health service that enables 11-18 year olds across Coventry to send confidential SMS text messages to School Nurses who will provide impartial advice and support. The number to text is **07507 331949**.

Giving Parent Advice

Parents can call the School Nurses between 8.30am - 16.30pm, Monday to Friday on 02475189190 to discuss any child health concerns they may have. Or can contact us by **texting our parent line 07507 329114** 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

www.healthforkids.co.uk

www.healthforteens.co.uk

Be Active Be Healthy

Contact Number: **07852921406** Opening hours 8:30 – 16:30, Monday to Friday

MAMTA

Telephone: 024 76637693

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Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

17 March 2022

Subject: Children's Services Continuous Improvement Progress

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) of the progress with Children's Services improvement journey over the last twelve months.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:

- 1) To note the current progress
- 2) Identify any areas the Board may want to look at in more detail
- 3) Identify any further recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Ofsted re-inspected Children's Services on 6th - 30th March 2017, the outcome of the inspection was published on 13th June 2017, Children's Services were judged as "requires improvement to be good".
- 3.2 The Ofsted framework (ILACS) includes focused visits to local authorities who are judged to be 'requires improvement'. Children's Services have received two visits. The first visit was held on 30-31 January 2018. The visit focused on the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The letter confirming the outcome of the visit was published on 22 February 2018.
- 3.3 A further focused visit was held on 26-27 February 2019. The visit focused on permanency planning and achieving permanency. The letter confirming the outcome of the visit was published on 21st March 2019.
- 3.4 In March 2020, Ofsted paused ILACS inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Children's Services was anticipating a standard Inspection by September 2020. Ofsted published their interim plans to reflect the COVID-19 context for a phased return to routine inspections which commenced from September 2020. The interim visits were paused again during the November 2020 lockdown.
- 3.5 A report proposing arrangements to transfer Children's Services Continuous Improvement to Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership was approved by the Children's Services Continuous Improvement Executive Group on 28th October 2020. The new arrangements will be effective from 1st April 2021, the governance in place will ensure that Children's Services continuous improvement remains a political priority. Education and Children's Scrutiny Board members will continue to receive reports on Children's Services continuous improvement and progress on an annual basis.

- 3.6 On 5 January 2021 a further national lockdown was announced. Ofsted confirmed that interim assurance focused visits will be undertaken during the national lockdown period commencing from February 2021.
- 3.7 The interim focused visit, (COVID-19 assurance) was undertaken on 12 and 13 May 2021. Interim focused visit differs from the usual focused visits in that they have a broader scope with a particular focus on the quality of decision making for children. The letter confirming the outcome was published on 25th June 2021. Three areas were identified for improvement.
- 3.8 Children's Services is likely to be re-inspected by Ofsted (Standard ILACS) Inspection in 2022.
- 3.9 The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive continue to give public commitment that Children's Services remains a key priority for the Council. This includes prioritising funding for Children's Services to maintain its capacity to improve. The Council, alongside partner organisations continue a relentless focus on securing improvements in services for children, young people and families to ensure they are safeguarded and achieve positive outcomes.

4 Children's Services Continuous Improvement Progress

- 4.1 The Children's Services Strategic Plan and Journey to Excellence September 2019-September 2022 outlines the improvement journey and the significant progress achieved working with partners to improve practice, sustain the workforce, reduce reliance on agency staff, in delivering service changes.
- 4.2 The service continues to work closely with its partners to focus on achieving good outcomes for our children. The overarching strategic priorities include a sustainable workforce, improving the quality of front-line practice and partnership working.
- 4.3 The Children's Services Strategic Plan will be refreshed in April 2022, embedding Coventry Family Valued relational restorative work with children and families and highlighting the significant progress against continuous improvement /transformation service changes and the aspirations for the future.

5 Children's Services COVID-19 journey

- 5.1 The impact of COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenging time and has had a significant impact on how services are delivered. Children's Services staff have adapted swiftly and effectively to the changes required in the way the service work. The service has remained committed to working with children and families, which has enabled the service to ensure that the most vulnerable children have been seen in person, and that children in care, both living in Coventry and outside the city, are provided with the technology and access to tuition and education where possible. Partnership working in Coventry has strengthened during the pandemic, with partners working together to focus and maintain their oversight of children's safety and well-being
- 5.2 All services have continued to operate during the lockdown period. Area Teams and Family Hubs have remained open and have bubble teams and duty staff kept to a minimum at all times with remote homeworking used where possible.
- 5.3 Children's Homes have continued to operate within the operating risk assessment. Broad Park House has remained open offering short breaks both targeted and community breaks.
- 5.4 The development of students has been impacted by the pandemic with lectures being online, placements being virtual and NQSW's not receiving the same levels of interaction and learning with families prior to the pandemic. The Social Work Academy recognised the impact of the pandemic of Newly Qualified Social Workers and responded with additional workshops with a detailed focus around undertaking home visits, assessment skills and

analysis skills alongside additional support on visits to families, and additional mentoring discussions

- 5.5 Children's Services ensured all workers received a health discussion to identify any existing vulnerabilities which may link to Covid-19, with individual plans in place where vulnerabilities were identified. Where children and families were isolating or infected with Covid-19, risk assessments were undertaken with a balanced focus on children's safety, wellbeing alongside workers health and safety needs.
- 5.6 During the pandemic there has been a push for self-care and a focus on health and fitness, this has brought yoga sessions, mindfulness and digital team fitness activities through Kaido challenges. The monthly Practice Development Forum for managers and practitioners in children's services dedicates a regular slot to wellbeing activities and encourages a culture of self-care Children's Services have also participated in their own a wellbeing week which took place in November 2021, both which received very positive feedback on the activities arranged and is helping to support staff to manage their own emotional wellbeing and better support their team. Further wellbeing events are being planned for 2022.
- 5.7 The service continues to be under pressure with the increased numbers of child in need work, increased numbers of Child Protection work and LAC numbers increasing. Recruiting to experienced social worker vacancies remain a significant challenge.

6 Workforce

- 6.1 The challenge for Coventry is the competitive market for social workers within the West Midlands region. The workforce profile over the past few years has led to children's services supporting a "grow our own" approach, with a key focus on enabling social workers into the profession, and the growth into experienced social workers with high quality practice standards. This includes working with a variety of pre-qualifying routes into social work including Frontline, Step up to Social Work and Social Work Degree Apprenticeships, investing in these routes and these students has effectively supported Social Workers into the profession and into Coventry. These schemes are aligned to the Social Work Academy, where once qualified these Newly Qualified Social workers are supported through their Assessed and Supported Year in Employment and to make the transition from students into professional and statutory practice.
- 6.2 The Coventry Social Work Academy is an operational team where cohorts of Newly Qualified Social Workers benefit from learning and development workshops, alongside robust oversight of work with children and families, in a protected environment to establish best practice as a baseline for continuous professional development journey. After the first 6 months of joining the Social Work Academy, newly qualified social workers continue on their assessed and supported year in employment in the wider children's services, with long arm support from the Social Work Academy.
- 6.3 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the stability of the workforce, social worker vacancies have remained high during the last year and good agency staff have been in short supply. Children's Services require agency social workers to maintain operational statutory services and to ensure caseloads remain manageable across the teams. Agency cover continues to be required to address vacancies, sickness and maternity leave cover. Since the summer, the service has seen a reduction in agency staffing to 61 in January 2022 compared with 83 in July 2021, this is a result of robust monitoring and recruitment strategies to increase the number of newly qualified social workers commencing employment to reduce the number of vacancies.
- 6.4 The expansion of the Social Work Academy has contributed to the building of a stable and permanent workforce. Work continues with agency permanent suppliers to encourage agency staff to convert to permanent roles. Recruitment webinars and advertising on

social media platforms and other initiatives such as international recruitment continue to be explored to recruit experienced social workers.

- 6.5 As a result of the positive strategies in place to recruit social workers, the number of social worker vacancies is reducing, which is having a positive impact and reduction in agency cover.

7 Coventry House Project

- 7.1 The Coventry House Project was launched in July 2021. The project helps young people to transition into independence and is a partnership project with Citizen housing in Coventry. The project creates a peer community for young people and enables them to develop the practical and emotional skills that they need to live independently. They work on houses which become their homes to live in for as long as they want.
- 7.2 The House Project lead launched the project with key partners including, Independent Reviewing Officers, Social Work teams, Placements team, Health, Education providers, Virtual School, Police. This was completed by attending team/service meetings and one to one discussion. The House Project practitioners are committed to ensure all agencies are aware of the project and joint work.
- 7.3 The potential cohort of young people for the project was identified prior to the launch taking place. The identification involved discussion with the allocated social workers, IRO's and consideration of the young person's care plan. The placement mix was also a consideration. The Coventry House Project launch was held in July 2021, the 12 young people who signed up to the project are making good progress developing relationships and creating a peer community to develop the practical and emotional skills that they need to live independently.
- 7.4 The young people on the project have named their cohort '*HP Sunrise - Our Journey to independence*'. They have developed their own logo for the cohort. The young people have created a community within their group and have formed friendships. They regularly cook and eat together during their group sessions and when asked what they like most about the project, they refer to it as their family.
- 7.5 10 of the young people have had the opportunity to go into the training flat for 1 week. This was a success, and the experience provided the young people with the opportunity to engage with the independence and learning plan module. It also provided an opportunity to assess and understand any worries for the young people around independent living and help the House Project facilitators to target their work. The first young person went into the flat on 4th October 2021 and the remainder of the cohort went in concurrently for the following 9 weeks.
- 7.6 The partnership working with Valpak has been a strength of the project and will seek to build on this for future cohorts.
- 7.7 The Coventry House Project has a twitter page which is very child and young person focused and provides regular updates on progress of the project. All the practitioners and young people on the project are loud and proud of it and want to build on this.

8 Coventry Family Valued Programme

- 8.1 Family Valued is a Leeds City Council system change programme designed to spread restorative practice across children's services. A key element is the expansion of the Family Group Conferencing (FGC) service to a scale not previously seen in the UK, including for families experiencing domestic violence. The programme launched in April 2021.
- 8.2 Coventry wants all children and young people in the authority to achieve the best possible outcomes. The pressure of numbers of children looked after, lack of local placement

availability, has made it challenging to the service. The opportunity that Family Valued brings is significant and will strengthen Children's Services.

- 8.3 The cost to implement the Coventry Family Valued programme for the first two years is met fully by the Department for Education.
- 8.4 35 FTE Family Valued posts have been recruited to, to deliver and embed the relational restorative practice across the service working with children and families and partners.
- 8.5 As part of the partnership with Leeds, Restorative Practice Awareness Training is being rolled out across Children's Services and partner agencies. Between July and December 2021, **517 practitioners** have attended this training, with the aim that all Children's Services staff will have attended this training by the end of March 2022. This training enhances the existing Signs of Safety training, which is offered, and over the next year, this training is being reviewed, with aspirations to offer training which focusses on The Coventry Way moving forward. This training commitment will include bespoke workshops which focus on specific elements of Signs of Safety, ensuring that we are practicing *with* and not doing *to* or *for* families
- 8.6 In addition to the Restorative Practice Awareness training, Team Managers are undertaking management oversight and supervision training. The Leadership team are undertaking a Strategic Leadership core programme, Operational Leaders are undertaking Relational middle leadership training, and actin learning sets.
- 8.7 Family Valued focuses on restorative and relationship-based practice- and how this leads to better outcomes for children and families. 'The Coventry Way' is the new practice approach with Signs of Safety is what we do, and Restorative and Relationship based practice is how we do it. The Restorative Practice Leads are working with teams to support and embed this way of working into practice.
- 8.8 The Family Valued Implementation is made up of nine workstreams:
 - Sustainability, Finance and Performance
 - Embedding Relationship-Based Practice
 - Expansion of Family Group Conferencing and New Restorative Services
 - Front Door
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Contextual Safeguarding/ Harm Outside of the Home
 - Promoting Connected Persons and Permanence through Special Guardianship Orders
 - Reunification Project
 - Voice and Influence
- 8.9 The Reunification workstream is demonstrating impact, six of the eleven children, who the Throughcare strand of the project are working with, have now returned home. The Reunification Social Worker for the Looked After Children and Permanence strand of the project has been in post since October 2021 and is currently working with nine children and their families. Due to the success of this project, consideration is being given to whether an expansion of the team would maximise the number of children who can safely return to their families.
- 8.10 In November 2021, a trail for co-location arrangements for FGC Coordinators commenced, in one of the Help and Protection areas, early indication is that the data suggests some increased use of FGC's, this is likely to be demonstrated further once the Pre-initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) Pathway is confirmed.
- 8.11 A review of the front door was undertaken in September 2021, the service is working with Leeds colleagues to finalise an action plan for further development.

- 8.12 A turning the Curve event is planned in March 2022, a partnership event to consider how Children's Services can work differently to improve outcomes for children and families in Coventry.
- 8.13 To celebrate the first anniversary of the Coventry Family Valued programme, a celebration event is being arranged between 4-8 April 2022 to celebrate the progress from each of the Workstreams 1 year on and an opportunity to re-engage in preparation for the next 12 months.

9 Ofsted Areas for Improvement Action Plan

- 9.1 The interim focused visit (COVID-19 Assurance) was undertaken on 12 and 13 May 2021, the two day visit was carried out by Four Her Majesty's Inspectors and one schools HMI.
- 9.2 Three areas were identified as areas for improvement:
- The timeliness of decision making for children to enter the Public Law Outline (PLO), and their circumstances being purposefully progressed once within it.
 - The quality of supervision, management oversight and case notes so that the rationale for decisions, made is clearly recorded.
 - Decision making and the recording of rationale with respect of children's placements
- 9.3 An Action Plan was developed in response to the visit. The plan details the progress against the areas for development.

10 Overall Summary

- 10.1 Coventry has a positive story to tell, the Director of Children's Services is passionate about improving services for children; with strong, timely and effective political and corporate support; with a strong leadership team working with partners to drive improvements and work with families to embed Coventry Family Valued in Coventry.
- 10.2 Coventry wants all children and young people in the city to achieve the best possible outcomes. The pressure of numbers of children looked after, lack of local placement availability, has made it challenging to the service. Embedding Coventry Family Valued is significant to our improvement and the impact and opportunities it brings will strengthen Children's Services.
- 10.3 In the lead up to the Ofsted Inspection, the Children's Services Leadership team and extended Leadership team continue to work together to drive forward practice improvements and services changes. There is explicit intention to ensure that Children's Services reaches a position where it is continuously achieving good outcomes for the Children of Coventry.

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 17th March 2022

Subject: Co-opted Members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) of proposed changes to the Constitution being considered at Council on 22nd March 2022

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) is recommended to:
- 1) Recognise the valuable contribution to the work of the Board by Kellie Jones, co-opted Member of SB2 since 3rd July 2012
 - 2) Note the proposed changes to the constitution to be considered by Council on 22nd March 2022

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 Kellie Jones has been a co-opted member of the scrutiny board responsible for Education matters since 3rd July 2012.
- 3.2 In December she resigned from the Board having been an active member
- 3.3 The constitution provides detail on the co-opted members of the scrutiny board that considers education matters. Part 2D and in particular, paragraph 6 deals with education representatives:

"6. Education Representatives

- 6.1 *The Scrutiny Board responsible for Education matters will include the following:-*
- (a) *One person nominated by the Church of England.*
 - (b) *One person nominated by the Roman Catholic Church.*
 - (c) *One parent governor elected by the parent governors in the City in respect of the Primary phase of education.*
 - (d) *One parent governor elected by the parent governors in the City in respect of the Secondary phase of education.*
 - (e) *One representative from other faith groups in the City*
- 6.2 *Such appointees, with the exception for the time being of the representative appointed under 6.1(e) above, may speak and vote on education issues only, but may speak on other issues.*

6.3 *They will also be invited to attend the meetings of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee (if it is considering a call-in on an educational matter) and of other Scrutiny Boards (if education matters are to be considered at those meetings) and may speak, but not vote upon those matters.”*

3.4 The *Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001* set out detailed provisions for Parent Governor Representatives (PGR's) including that they have voting rights, their term of office must be a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 4 years and we must appoint at least 2 and a maximum of 5 PGRs.

3.5 Where a PGR ceases to be a parent governor because their term of office at the school has expired, they are not disqualified from continuing as a PGR **but** this would only be for the term of their appointment as a PGR.

3.6 Part 2D of the Constitution deals with Scrutiny. In particular, paragraph 6 deals with education representatives and the Constitution divides the PGRs into primary and secondary representatives. There is also nothing in the Constitution about what the term of office is which is required under the legislation.

3.7 There are now no maintained secondary schools left in the city and the number of maintained primary schools is also greatly reduced. The most up-to-date version of this legislation has been checked and it is confirmed that the position remains the same and reference is only made to maintained schools but there is no stipulation that there must be a separate primary and secondary school PGR.

3.8 As the number of maintained schools reduces and especially as there are now no maintained secondary schools left, it is proposed that changes to the Constitution be made to remove the requirement for there to be a separate primary and secondary school PGR in addition to the insertion of a four year term of office. The proposal has been discussed by the Constitutional Advisory Group and will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities prior to Council considering a recommendation to this effect at its meeting on 22nd March 2022.

3.9 Therefore, in keeping with the legislation in this area and to reflect the fact that Coventry now has no maintained secondary schools, under *Part 2D – Functions of Scrutiny, paragraph 6: Education Representatives* the proposed changes to the parent governor representatives (PGR's) are:

- i. a four year term of office; and
- ii. removal of the requirement for a parent governor representative from both a maintained primary and secondary school in the city (instead introducing a requirement for a generic parent governor who could technically be from any maintained school)

3.10 In order to address the current vacancies, the scrutiny team will be liaising with colleagues in Education Services to recruit school governors, as well as groups and networks that could identify suitable representatives for the Board.

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Agenda Item 8

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2021-22

Last updated 4/3/21

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

24th June 2021
Children and Young People's Plan i) Overview of services ii) Covid-19 context iii) Holiday Activity Fund including provision of Free School Meals
16th September 2021
Ofsted Outcomes and Action Plan Briefing on support for self-isolating families
21st October 2021
Children's Services Horizon Team (Child Exploitation Team) Children withdrawn from school to be home educated
9th December 2021
Voice of the Child - use of technology to engage specific groups of children and young people School holiday FSM and activity provision update School Readiness
27th January 2022 - postponed
-
17th March 2022
Family Health and Lifestyles Service update Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report Children's Services Strategic Plan and Journey to Excellence
Items for 2022-23
Library provision Children Missing Education One Strategic Plan Adoption Service Annual Report Family Valued Programme Youth Provision in Coventry SEND, employment and post-16 opportunities School Performance Information – validated data School Readiness Task and Finish Group – Autism in Schools

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2021-22

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
24th June 2021	Children and Young People's Plan i) Overview of services ii) Covid-19 context iii) Holiday Activity Fund including provision of Free School Meals	An introduction to the Board on the priorities of the service for the coming year, including the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people in school, as well as a focus on the planned activities over the summer, including the provision of Free School Meals over the summer holiday	John Gregg/ Kirston Nelson Cllr Sandhu/ Cllr Seaman
16th September 2021	Ofsted Outcomes and Action Plan	To look in detail at the recommendations from the Ofsted visit in May 2021 and progress on actions	John Gregg Cllr Seaman
	Briefing on support for self-isolating families	Information for Members on support to families.	
21st October 2021	Children's Services Horizon Team (Child Exploitation Team)	Progress on the work of the Horizons Team to protect children from criminal and sexual exploitation.	John Gregg/Cllr Seaman Kirston Nelson/Cllr Sandhu
	Children withdrawn from school to be home educated	Following concerns that the numbers of electively home education children has risen as a result of concerns around Covid, Members requested an item on how these children are being supported and safeguarded.	Kirston Nelson Cllr Sandhu
9th December 2021	Voice of the Child - use of technology to engage specific groups of children and young people	A report to focus on using apps for young people - item on voice of the child - a positive story. Voices of children with additional needs SEND aspect as well.	John Gregg/ Jeannette Essex Cllr Seaman
	School holiday FSM and activity provision update	Education & Skills to cover feedback from summer holiday activity fund as well as plans for Christmas holiday FSM provision.	Kirston Nelson/Cllr Sandhu
	School Readiness	To consider the impact Covid has had on school readiness and what services are doing to support and improve school readiness	John Gregg/Cllr Seaman Kirston Nelson/Cllr Sandhu

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2021-22

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
27th January 2022 - postponed	-		
17th March 2022	Family Health and Lifestyles Service update	The service includes the following: Family Nurse Partnership (supporting first time teenage parents), Health Visiting, Infant feeding, Stop Smoking in Pregnancy, Family Weight management – Be Active Be Healthy, School Nursing and support for BAME families. The paper will provide an overview on how the service is being redesigned to ensure that there is an even greater focus on increasing levels of service to those with greater health inequalities in Coventry.	Harbir Nagra Jane Fowles Cllr Caan
	Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report	To include recommendations and progress on any serious case reviews	John Gregg Rebekah Eaves Cllr Seaman
	Children's Services Strategic Plan and Journey to Excellence	At their meeting on 28 th November 2020 the Board requested progress on data from performance highlights, with demographics where possible, provided in the strategic plan. Also, to include RAG ratings from the action plan. At their meeting on 11 th March 2021 the Board agreed that this report would replace the regular progress reports from the Improvement Board	John Gregg Cllr Seaman
Items for 2022-23	Library provision	With particular reference to those now being delivered with/by volunteers e.g. Earlsdon and the 'new' library in Holbrooks	
	Children Missing Education	To include children excluded, at risk of exclusion Children home schooled will be considered as part of a separate item	Kirston Nelson Jeanette Essex
	One Strategic Plan	The One Strategic Plan was approved by Cabinet in Feb 2020. The Board will monitor progress on implementation of the plan.	Kirston Nelson

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Adoption Service Annual Report	Annual report – including information about the diversity of the adoption panel and adopters as well as support to birth mothers after their children have been adopted	Cllr Seaman Paul Smith
	Family Valued Programme	To consider progress and impact on families of the programme	John Gregg Cllr Seaman
	Youth Provision in Coventry	How and where we work with outside partners (and specifically the third sector) to deliver it	
	SEND, employment and post-16 opportunities	To consider how children with SEND are supported to access employment and training opportunities post 16	
	School Performance Information – validated data	A report on school performance data using validated data, including LAC and vulnerable groups, as well as gender analysis. Possibly overlaying with Marmot	Kirston Nelson
	School Readiness	A follow up item to the item from December 2021 – to include the potential increase in Reception numbers in September 2022 who aren't "school ready"	Rachael Sugars Cllr Sandhu
	Task and Finish Group – Autism in Schools	Following a T&F group led by SB5, it was agreed that SB2 would undertake a T&F on the in-depth challenges facing schools in providing support to children, young people and their families who are on the autism assessment pathway.	Jeannette Essex Cllr Sandhu